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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council

Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mawrth, 15 Gorffennaf 2025

Annwyl Cynghorydd,

CABINET

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Cabinet Hybrid yn Siambr y Cyngor Swyddfeydd Dinesig Stryd yr Angel Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB ar **Dydd Mawrth, 22 Gorffennaf 2025** am **14:30**.

AGENDA

1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.

2 Datganiadau o fuddiant

Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.

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I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â pharagraff 2.4 (e) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cabinet yn y Cyfansoddiad.

22 Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Nid oedd yr eitemau canlynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi, gan fod eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 12, 13 a 14 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5,

Atodlen 12A, Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i newidiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2007 (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio).

Os, yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd yn y Cabinet yn penderfynu yn unol â'r Ddeddf i ystyried yr eitemau hyn yn breifat, bydd y cyhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.

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Nodyn: Bydd hwn yn gyfarfod Hybrid a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion mynychu trwy Siambr y Cyngor, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / o bell Trwy Timau Microsoft. Bydd y cyfarfod cael ei recordio i'w drosglwyddo drwy wefan y Cyngor. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159

Yn ddiffuant
K Watson
Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghorwr:
E L P Caparros
P Davies
M J Evans
N Farr
J Gebbie
M Jones
JC Spanswick
HM Williams

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COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD CYFARFOD O'R CABINET A GYNHALIWYD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB AR DYDD MAWRTH, 24 MEHEFIN 2025 14:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd JC Spanswick – Cadeirydd

N Farr	J Gebbie	HM Williams	P Davies
M J Evans	M Jones		

Presennol – O Bell

E L P Caparros

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

Dim

Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb

Dim

Swyddogion:

Anya Richards	Rheolwr Grŵp - Cyfathrebu a Materion Cyhoeddus
Oscar Roberts	Prentis Gweinyddol Busnes - Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Carys Lord	Prif Swyddog - Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid
Claire Marchant	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Janine Nightingale	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau
Kelly Watson	Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Michael Pitman	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd – Pwyllgorau

485. Cymeradwyo Cofnodion

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo cofnodion 13/05/2025 fel cofnod gwir a chywir.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

486. Polisi yn erbyn Osgoi Trethi

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i'r Polisi yn erbyn Osgoi Trethi oedd wedi cael ei ddiweddaru. Esboniodd fod Strategaeth a Fframwaith Twyll 2022/23 i 2024/25 wedi cael eu hadolygu gan y Tîm Ymchwilio i Dwyll, ochr yn ochr â swyddogion o Archwilio Mewnol a Chyllid, a bod nifer o ddiwygiadau wedi cael eu gwneud i sicrhau bod y ddogfen yn gyfredol i adlewyrchu newidiadau fel yr eglurwyd yn adran 3 yr adroddiad. Gofynnodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd am eglurder ar y ffordd y mae awdurdodau tân yn sicrhau eu bod yn mabwysiadu yr un polisi yn erbyn osgoi trethi. Atebodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid y disgwylid i awdurdodau tân fel cyrff perthnasol, gael eu polisïau a'u gweithdrefnau eu hunain. PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r Polisi yn erbyn Osgoi Trethi oedd wedi cael ei ddiweddaru.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

487. Strategaeth a Fframwaith Twyll 2025-26 i 2027-28

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i Strategaeth a Fframwaith Twyll 2025/26 i 2027/28, oedd yn gysylltiedig yn Atodiad A.

	Esboniodd fod twyll a chamgymeriadau yn heriau sylweddol i awdurdodau lleol, gyda'r gost i drethdalwyr y DU rhwng £55 biliwn ac £81 biliwn yn 2023-2024. Nododd hefyd fod troseddau twyll yng Nghymru a Lloegr wedi cynyddu o 19% yn y flwyddyn yn diweddu Medi 2024. Roedd y strategaeth yn egluro dull dim goddefgarwch y Cyngor tuag at dwyll a llygredd ac amlinellodd y trefniadau oedd yn eu lle i atal, darganfod ac ymchwilio i dwyll. Holodd yr Arweinydd am y math o dwyll a allai fod yn digwydd mewn ysgolion. Rhoddwyd enghraifft o glerc ysgol oedd wedi cael ei charcharu am ddwyn symiau sylweddol o arian oddi ar Gymdeithas Rieni Athrawon a defnyddio cerdyn credyd yr ysgol i dalu am nwyddau personol, gan egluro nad ysgol ym Mhen-y-bont oedd hon ond ei bod yn dangos y problemau amrywiol sy'n codi yn genedlaethol. <u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r Strategaeth a Fframwaith Twyll 2025/26 i 2027/28, oedd yn gysylltiedig yn Atodiad A.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

488. Alldro Cyllideb Refeniw 2024-25

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid adroddiad oedd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cabinet am berfformiad ariannol refeniw'r Cyngor am y flwyddyn ddaeth i ben 31 Mawrth 2025. Roedd yr adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at sefyllfa alldro derfynol o £300,000 o danwariant. Holodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywiad, Datblygiad Economaidd a Thai ynghylch y broses oedd yn ei lle ar gyfer swyddogion pan oeddent yn dod yn ymwybodol o orwariant posibl. Eglurodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid fod pob Prif Swyddog yn gyfrifol am reoli ei gyllideb a bod prosesau monitro rheolaidd yn eu lle i ganfod ac ymdrin ag unrhyw broblemau posibl. Gofynnodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adnoddau a oedd problem diffygion SEN, lle roedd rhai cynghorau yn Lloegr yn cael eu cadw oddi ar y llyfrau, yn wir am Gymru. Cadarnhaodd y Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Tai a Newid nad oedd y cynllun hwn yn weithredol yng Nghymru a bod yr holl wariant SEN yn weladwy yn eu hadroddiadau. <u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet yn nodi'r sefyllfa alldro derfynol am 2024-25.

Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

489. Cynrychiolaeth ar Gyrff Allanol, Cydbwyllgorau a Phwyllgorau'r Cabinet

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer penodiadau Aelodau i gydbwyllgorau, pwyllgorau'r cabinet, ac enwebiadau i gyrff allanol. Dywedodd fod y rhestr lawn yn Atodiad 1 i'r adroddiad. Gofynnodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd am welliant i symud Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol o'i swydd ar y Panel Mabwysiadu a'r Panel Maethu gan ddatgan ei bod hi'n credu nad oedd yn briodol i unigolyn a benodwyd yn wleidyddol fod yn rhan o wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn ag addasrwydd gofalwyr maeth neu fabwysiadwyr posibl. Dadleuai y dylai penderfyniadau o'r fath gael eu gwneud gan y rheiny oedd â'r hyfforddiant a'r cymwysterau gwaith cymdeithasol proffesiynol perthnasol. PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn penodi'r nifer gofynnol o Aelodau i'r Cydbwyllgorau, Pwyllgorau'r Cabinet a chyrff allanol eraill fel y'u rhestrwyd yn Atodiad 1, yn amodol ar y newid canlynol a gytunwyd gan y Cabinet: Dylid tynnu'r Panel Mabwysiadu a'r Panel Maethu o'r adroddiad oherwydd yr hyfforddiant oedd ei angen ar gyfer y swyddi hyn.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

490. Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion - Ehangu Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr – Newid l'r Dyddiad Gweithredu

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg, y Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Phobl Ifanc adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i addasu'r dyddiad gweithredu ar gyfer Ysgol newydd Bro Ogwr i fis Medi 2027. Amlinellai'r adroddiad y rhesymau dros yr oedi, oedd yn cynnwys problemau ecolegol ar y safle arfaethedig a chodiadau sylweddol mewn costau.

	Mynegodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adnoddau bryder ynghylch y costau cynyddol a holodd ynghylch y canlyniadau posibl i'r awdurdod. Esboniodd Rheolwr y Tîm Cymunedau Cynaliadwy ar gyfer Dysgu fod syrfëwr meintiau siartredig wedi darparu amcangyfrifon o'r costau a'u bod yn credu y byddai'r gyllideb a osodwyd yn ddigonol i gyflawni'r cynllun erbyn mis Medi 2027. PENDERFYNWYD: bod y Cabinet yn addasu dyddiad gweithredu Ysgol newydd Bro Ogwr i fis Medi 2027.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

491. Eitemau Brys

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Nid oedd dim eitemau brys
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

492. Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	PENDERFYNWYD: Nid yw'r eitemau canlynol i gael eu cyhoeddi gan eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraff 12 o Ran 4 a/neu Baragraff 21 o Ran 5 o Atodlen 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth)(Amrywiad)(Cymru) 2007. Yn dilyn cymhwyso prawf budd y cyhoedd, penderfynodd y pwyllgor, yn unol â'r Ddeddf, ystyried yr eitemau hyn yn breifat, gyda'r cyhoedd yn cael eu heithrio o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

493. Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion – Ysgolion Cynradd Gorllewin Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Roedd y penderfyniad hwn wedi cael ei eithrio.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

494. Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion: Ysgol Heronsbridge a Harwood House - Caffael

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Roedd y penderfyniad hwn wedi cael ei eithrio.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	24 Mehefin 2025

Terfynwyd y cyfarfod yn 15:30

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL 3G PITCH REPLACEMENT**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**MARTIN MORGANS, HEAD OF OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**This report has no effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.**
Executive Summary:	**The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet on a proposed project to redevelop the existing 2G football pitch at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, leveraging external funding. The project aims to benefit both the school and the wider community.** **The report also seeks approval for Bridgend County Borough Council to enter into a suitable management agreement with the school for the ongoing management and maintenance of the facility, ensuring it supports our communities and the wellbeing of future generations.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval to accept funding from the Cymru Football Foundation and Sport Wales, for the redevelopment of the existing 2G football pitch at Bryntirion Comprehensive School ("the School") and to request approval for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to enter into a management agreement with the school for the management and maintenance of the redeveloped facilities.

2. Background

2.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has seen a substantial increase in the demand for artificial pitches across the borough, which has been determined through community engagement via the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Officer and the Green Spaces Department.

2.2 This feedback received has outlined issues around a lack of artificial and hybrid surfaces in the borough and noted competition for existing pitches between community clubs and commercial entities. As a result, clubs have had to resort to travelling out of area to access suitable facilities, thus impacting those who do not have access to transport, which has potentially contributed to a reduction in the number of people provided with opportunities for sport in the Borough.

2.3 The existing 2G pitch at Bryntirion Comprehensive School is currently only utilised by a small number of groups during after-school hours, due to its poor condition. The current environment and experiences of the existing pitch are poor, from both school and local community perspectives.

2.4 Through collaboration and partnership working with the Cymru Football Foundation, an opportunity arose for a technical assessment and surveys to be undertaken by pitch improvement specialists and this exercise was completed in April 2025. This assessment confirmed that the existing 2G pitch is at end-of -life, the existing slabbed goal areas and surrounding fences are also in poor condition and all elements require replacement. A full schedule of works was prepared and costed as part of this technical assessment.

2.5 Initial consultation with the School Modernisation Board indicated that the project could be considered and confirmed that a bid could be made for external funding via the Cymru Football Foundation and Sport Wales, but any subsequent acceptance of funding would need to be subject to a robust management agreement being agreed with the school.

2.6 Following consultation with Planning, the Coastal & Flood Management team and Corporate Landlord it was confirmed that the land in question is held by BCBC under the Education portfolio and the proposed refurbishment would be considered as “permitted development” in this instance.

2.7 Following further consultation and discussion with the Education, Early Years and Young People directorate, funding applications were made to the Cymru Football Foundation (Fit for Future Facilities Programme) and Sport Wales (Welsh Government Pitch Collaboration Fund) in the sum of £400,000 and £159,768 respectively.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 Bryntirion Comprehensive School Background

3.1.1 Bryntirion Comprehensive School is an English-medium 11-19 mixed comprehensive school maintained by Bridgend County Borough Council. There are 1,223 pupils on roll, including 178 in the sixth form. The school utilise the existing 2G pitch during school hours for PE sessions across all year groups. Outside of these hours, the school offers usage of the existing 2G surface for Rugby and football, but there is low take-up **(**as outlined at **Appendix A)** due to the poor condition of the pitch.

3.1.2 The school manages community usage of the swimming pool and adjoining changing facilities, the main hall for sports (football) usage and the grass fields for

both rugby and football usage during after-school hours and are looking to increase their recreational offer to the school and wider community as a result of this project.

3.2 Proposed Project & Impact

3.2.1 The development of the proposed pitch at Bryntirion Comprehensive School will assist with the increased demand for artificial pitches for both football and rugby across the borough, through the winter season in particular.

3.2.2 The proposed facility will encompass:

- a new full-sized 3G pitch, including a shock pad
- Crossfield goals
- New fencing to goal lines and touchlines
- spectator zone for the protection of the pitch and to elongate the lifespan of the surface
- Upgraded LED floodlights
- There is also the potential for the inclusion of a container for equipment storage and dugouts to bring the pitch to the required Tier 2 level (as defined by the FAW).
- There is also the potential for a dedicated walkway to be developed from the car park to the pitch, utilising additional funding applied for via the Community Focussed Schools grant.

3.2.3 The relationship between the school and the local community will be built upon and schemes developed wherever possible to benefit those who live in deprived areas surrounding the school and throughout the borough. There is also an opportunity for women/girls only teams to access booking slots through partnership with local clubs.

3.2.4 Multiple groups have expressed an interest in utilising the site, should this project be progressed and other local clubs with significant experience in managing and maintaining an artificial pitch and associated facilities has offered support to the governing body of the school to ensure this project is a success.

3.3 Project Funding Applications

3.3.1 Following an application to the Cymru Football Foundation's Fit for Future Facilities Programme, an offer letter has been received approving the initial sum of £400,000. The application to Sport Wales in the sum of £159,768 is due for consideration shortly and an application submitted for a Community Focused Schools is also being considered at present.

3.3.2 The draft proposed usage plan (as shown at **Appendix B**) has been considered by the Cymru Football Foundation (CFF) and will be finalised in consultation with the school, BCBC and the Cymru Football Foundation.

3.4 Management Agreement

3.4.1 If approved by Cabinet, the intention is to finalise and enter into a management agreement with the School, to incorporate the following aspects:

- Maintenance of the pitch in line with CFF recommendations, as defined in the **"Artificial Grass Pitch (3G) Guidance (2025)"** documentation **(Appendix C)**

- The establishment of an appropriate sinking fund ringfenced by BCBC from revenue generated for future resurfacing works at year 10.

- Estimated plausible annual income from the hire of the pitch and the expected annual maintenance costs have been included as a guide at **Appendix D.** These estimates are based on the lowest proposed hire fees as identified by the CFF, for the maximum usage during term time only. The annual maintenance figures used in this calculation are also average figures provided by the CFF.

- School usage/community usage hours - the pitches will be utilised by the school during operational hours for PE sessions and by the community during after-school hours, weekends and school holidays.

- Monitoring, reporting and financial management controls to ensure the effective operation of the sinking fund which will be maintained by the Council to ensure oversight, with regular payments to be made as per a pre-agreed schedule.

3.4.2 The CAT Officer has developed an initial draft of this agreement with Legal and Finance departments, which has been considered by the Governing Body at Bryntirion Comprehensive School and the draft proposed terms have been accepted.

3.5 Procurement procedure

3.5.1 Once all funding has been secured, the intention is for the CAT Officer and the Education, Early Years and Young People Manager to work with colleagues in the Procurement Department to prepare the necessary documentation in line with BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules for a tender exercise via Sell2Wales.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 This project assists in the achievement of the following well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Long Term** – Entering into a management agreement with the School will enable the maintenance and upkeep of newly-installed facilities in the short term, as well as providing provision for the resurfacing of the courts after 10 years, ensuring a high-quality facility is available for future generations.

- **Prevention** – The School provides employment to local people and will work with established groups to provide a service appropriate for the local community. The agreement in relation to maintenance and resurfacing of the courts would enable an experienced community-based school to ensure the safeguarding of the facilities for future generations and reduce the need for reliance on BCBC for the provision of this service in other locations across the borough.

- **Integration** – Any income received by the School will be utilised for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities, as well as resurfacing the pitch after 10 years, ensuring a high-quality facility is available for future generations. The inclusion of Welsh language has been considered and a requirement of the agreement will include the need for communications to be provided bilingually where possible.

- **Collaboration** – The School will work with local community groups and wider sports groups to ensure that a fit-for-purpose service is being provided with consideration to the needs of the local communities. An opportunity for the School to work in conjunction with an established football club with similar facilities in Bridgend has already been identified and will be further explored.

- **Involvement** – The school will provide a number of booking slots specifically to encourage a diverse range of individuals in our community to participate in sports sessions, ensuring an inclusive opportunity for these communities. The service will actively encourage its users to engage with the activities that take place within their community and support contact with friends, family and other members of the public. Through greater engagement individuals should be able to contribute to their communities for longer.

5.2 The proposed project aligns with the following **BCBC Wellbeing Objectives** as defined in the Corporate Plan 2023-2028:

- A County Borough with thriving valleys communities: *Improving community facilities and making them more accessible*

- A County Borough where we help people meet their potential: *Modernising our school facilities.*

- A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community: *Helping community groups to take control of and improve their facilities to protect them for the future.*

- A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives: *Offering attractive leisure and cultural activities and improving children's play facilities and opportunities*

5.3 This project also aligns with the following policies and strategies:

- **Cymru Football Foundation Impact Categories**, specifically:
  - Tackling Inequalities: Improving Quality of and Access to Facilities in Deprived Communities
  - Improved Experiences and Environments: Enabling Participation Growth and/or Retention
  - Stronger and More Sustainable Community-Focused Clubs
  - Improving Facilities and Environments for Women and Girls

- **The Play Sufficiency Duty Wales**, particularly in relation to:
  - Matter C: Space available for Children to play
  - Matter D: Supervised Provision

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report and the recommendation to enter into a management agreement, however, the redevelopment of the facility itself will reduce the need for members of the community to travel to other authority areas, thus assisting in achieving the Council's Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The project will increase the availability of 3G facilities in the borough and enable the school to generate an income for the maintenance/management of the pitch, the establishment of a sinking fund and other school-related projects in connection with the purposes outlined above.

8.2 Based on the specification provided by the pitch specialist commissioned by the Cymru Football Foundation and the expected external funding to be leveraged, there is not estimated to be any capital financial implications to the authority for the development of this facility. . If all funding referenced in 3.3.1 is not secured, then the project will not be able to proceed. All funding will need to be secured to enable a procurement exercise to commence.

8.3 In line with the Council's Financial Procedure rules, schemes for which external funding has been approved will be added to the capital programme once the funding has been accepted and included in the next capital programme report to Council.

8.3 Based on the projected calculations in relation to the income, projected maintenance costs and sinking fund requirements (shown at **Appendix D**), it is not anticipated that there will be any financial implication to the authority or the school, as the income from the hire of the facility would be retained and utilised by the School for the maintenance of the facility and an agreed amount transferred to BCBC for retention in a ringfenced sinking fund for the purpose of resurfacing the pitch in the future. The Cymru Football Foundation have provided expected costs for maintenance of the proposed facility based on the prepared usage plan which indicates that the risk of the sinking fund being insufficient is low.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is requested to:

1. Consider the contents of this report and confirm approval to accept grant funding in connection with this proposal.

2. Consider the contents of this report and confirm approval of the project and the entering into of an appropriate management agreement.

3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities to negotiate the final terms of the management agreement in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance and the Director Education, Early Years and Young People to enter into the management agreement and any supplementary agreements and to grant any necessary consents required on behalf of the Council.

Background documents

None

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Bryntirion Comprehensive School

Current Usage (May 2025)

Monday	6pm – 7pm	Football User 1
Tuesday	6pm – 7pm	Football User 2
Wednesday	6pm – 7pm	Rugby User 1
Thursday	6pm – 7.30pm	Rugby User 2
Friday	6pm – 7.00pm	Football User 3

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	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		Sunday	
	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B	Pitch Half A	Pitch Half B
08:00	*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*		*Maintenance*	
08:30														
09:00	**Schools & Local Community Usage**		**Schools & Local Community Usage**		**Schools & Local Community Usage**		**Schools & Local Community Usage**		**Schools & Local Community Usage**					
09:30														
10:00											**Mini and Junior Football Leagues Partnership** Protected Slot for Grassroots Leagues	**Mini and Junior Football Leagues Partnership** Protected Slot for Grassroots Leagues	**Mini and Junior Football Leagues Partnership** Protected Slot for Grassroots Leagues	**Mini and Junior Football Leagues Partnership** Protected Slot for Grassroots Leagues
10:30														
11:00														
11:30														
12:00														
12:30														
13:00														
13:30														
14:00											**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 14:00 KO		**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 14:00 KO	
14:30														
15:00														
15:15	**Education Extra-Curricular, Community Groups or Maintenance**		**Education Extra-Curricular, Community Groups or Maintenance**		**Education Extra-Curricular, Community Groups or Maintenance**		**Education Extra-Curricular, Community Groups or Maintenance**		**Education Extra-Curricular, Community Groups or Maintenance**					
15:30														
15:45														
16:00														
16:15														
16:30														
16:45	**Mini Football Priority** (inc Huddle)	**Mini Football Priority** (inc Huddle)	**Mini Football Priority** (inc Huddle)	**Junior Football Priority**	**Mini Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi-Sport	**Mini Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi-Sport	**Mini Girls' Football Priority** (Huddle or other)	**Mini Girls' Football Priority** (Huddle or other)	**Mini Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi-Sport (inc Huddle)	**Junior Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi Sport (inc Huddle)				
17:00														
17:15														
17:30														
17:45														
18:00	**Junior Football Priority**	**Junior Football Priority**			**Junior Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi Sport	**Junior Age Groups Priority** Supporting Multi Sport	**Junior Girls' Football Priority** (inc Huddle)	**Junior Girls' Football Priority** (inc Huddle)			**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 17:45 KO		**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 17:45 KO	
18:15														
18:30			**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 19:30 KO *or Community Bookings*						**Availability for Youth & Senior Football Matches** 19:30 KO *or Community Bookings*					
18:45														
19:00														
19:15	**Junior, Youth and Senior** (U14+)	**Junior, Youth and Senior** (U14+)			**Youth & Senior Priority** Supporting Multi Sport	**Youth & Senior Priority** Supporting Multi Sport	**Junior, Youth and Senior Women and Girls** (U14+)	**Junior, Youth and Senior Women and Girls** (U14+)						
19:30														
19:45														
20:00	**Senior Football Priority**	**Senior Football Priority**					**Senior Women Football Priority**	**Senior Women Football Priority**						
20:15														
20:30														
20:45														
21:00	*N/A*		*N/A*		*N/A*		*N/A*		*N/A*		*N/A*		*N/A*	
21:15														
21:30														
21:45														
22:00														
22:15														
22:30														
22:45														

Full Size Pitch		
School or Organised Community Group Name (09:00 - 15:00 users)	**Gender** (M/F/Mix)	**Required Hours p/week**
Example: Cardiff Comprehensive School	*Mix*	*12*
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Mix	30
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Mix	5

Mini Age Group Teams including any non-football Teams	**Gender (M/F/Mix)**	**Required Hours p/week**
Example: Cardiff City U6s	*Mix*	*1*
Mini Club 1 TBC	Mix	3
Mini Club 2 TBC	Mix	3
Mini Club 3 TBC	Mix	3
Mini Club 4 TBC	Mix	3
Mini Club 5 TBC	F	3

Junior Age Group Teams including any non-football Teams	**Gender (M/F/Mix)**	**Required Hours p/week**
Example: Cardiff City U13s	*M*	*2*
Junior Club 1 TBC	Mix	3
Junior Club 2 TBC	Mix	3
Junior Club 3 TBC	Mix	3
Junior Club 4 TBC	Mix	3
Junior Club 5 TBC	F	3

Youth and Senior Age Group Teams including any non-football Teams	**Gender (M/F/Mix)**	**Required Hours p/week**
Example: Cardiff City Women	*F*	*6*
Youth Club 1 TBC	Mix	5
Youth Club 2 TBC	Mix	5
Youth Club 3 TBC	Mix	5
Youth Club 4 TBC	Mix	5
Youth Club 5 TBC	F	5
Senior Club 1 TBC	Mix	3

Senior Club 2 TBC	Mix	3
Senior Club 3 TBC	F	3

Commercial Users	Gender (M/F/Mix)	Required Hours p/week
Example: Cardiff Power League 6aside	*Mix*	*3*
TBC		

Estimated Weeks Required per Year	Pitch Usage (Half/Full)	Approx Number of Participants per Slot	Competitive Matches? (Y/N)	Competitive Matches per Week
	Full	*22*	*Y*	*1*
52	Full	Full Classes in Core Hours	N	N/A
52	Full	After School Clubs/Teams	Y	TBC

Estimated Weeks Required per Year	Pitch Usage (Half/Full)	Approx Number of Participants per Session	Competitive Matches? (Y/N)	Competitive Matches per Week
	Half	*18*	*N*	*NA*
	Half	18	*N*	NA
	Half	18	*N*	NA
	Half	18	*N*	NA
	Half	18	*N*	NA
	Half	18	*N*	NA

Estimated Weeks Required per Year	Pitch Usage (Half/Full)	Approx Number of Participants per Session	Competitive Matches? (Y/N)	Competitive Matches per Week
	Half	*14*	*N*	*NA*
	Half	14	N	NA
	Half	14	N	NA
	Half	14	N	NA
	Half	14	N	NA
	Half	14	N	NA

Estimated Weeks Required per Year	Pitch Usage (Half/Full)	Approx Number of Participants per Session	Competitive Matches? (Y/N)	Competitive Matches per Week
	Full	*32*	*Y*	*1*
	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1

	Full	32	Y	1
	Full	32	Y	1

Estimated Weeks Required per Year	**Pitch Usage** (Half/Full)	**Approx Number of Participants per Session**	**Competitive Matches? (Y/N)**	**Competitive Matches** per Week
	Full	*72*	*N*	*NA*

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CYMRU FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH (3G) GUIDANCE

ISSUE 3: FEBRUARY 2025

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ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS) OVERVIEW

Second and Third Generation (2G and 3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) have been in use, by the team sports of football, rugby and hockey, for a number of years. The shorter pile, 2G carpets are suitable for competitive hockey, together with general multi-sport, non-contact training.

Without doubt, a large number of leisure and education institutions, together with clubs, have experienced the advantages of 2G and 3G AGP installations, providing the opportunity to play sport throughout the year and without interruption as a result of poor weather conditions.

However, because of the significant capital and revenue costs, viability, as well as sustainability challenges and their impact on other facilities, the provision of full sized AGPS must be viewed in the same way as other large, built, strategic sports facilities.

Financial planning is a significant consideration for all organisations who are thinking of making the enormous investment that artificial pitches demand. Any organisation considering such a development should already be multi-purpose, have a significant infrastructure, management capability, income generating capacity and funds in place to demonstrate financial viability and be serving a wide catchment area/significant population base.

The plans required to deliver a successful project are referred to throughout this guidance and in particular there is a section covering feasibility studies, market testing and other pre-project considerations on pages 5 to 8.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SURFACE

Depending on the user requirements demanded by sports clubs, leisure providers or education institutions, there are a number of options when considering the type of pitch surface to select ranging from short pile to longer pile 3G carpets to even considering non-turf, polymeric surfaces for netball, tennis, basketball, for wheelchair users or general open access sites.

Second Generation (2G) artificial grass surfaces consist of two elements: synthetic turf and infill. They have a short pile carpet, infilled with sand and normally installed over a shockpad. The carpet is typically between 13mm-24mm in pile height. Generally, these surfaces are either sand-dressed or sand-filled.

Such facilities are the most popular choice to serve hockey needs and general sports training.

‘Gen 2’ is a new Second Generation ‘multi-sport’ surface developed by the FIH which is designed to provide sustainable facilities with a dynamic surface for multiple sports. These surfaces have been developed by hockey in collaboration with tennis and netball and are suitable for both full-sized hockey and with rebound boards, Hockey-5s, the official short form version of Hockey. The surface is also suitable for recreational tennis and netball.

Third Generation (3G) AGP installations differ in their development as the surface is generally supported by a sand and rubber infill. The infill is important to support the carpet pile,

recreate the performance qualities of real grass and reduce the risk of injury. These pitches are typically used for the playing of football as the longer pile and rubber infill attempts to replicate the ball roll and bounce, together with the traction properties of natural turf pitches.

Other natural infill materials instead of rubber are available in different artificial grass installations and may secure FIFA accreditation. However, rubber crumb infill is currently, still the most commonly used for reasons of cost, stability of infill and longevity. Cork for example is being used in a few cases as an alternative and more environmentally acceptable infill, particularly in hotter climates where temperature is a consideration. However, it is more expensive, needs more maintenance, the infill migrates more easily and performance deteriorates more quickly. Examples of other infills being developed include coconut husk mixes and blended walnut shells. This is a constantly evolving, specialist area of design development and guidance is always under review. **ANNEX A provides a summary of latest guidance on the 3G pitch infills.**

For football played under competition rules, the facility must also satisfy FIFA Quality certification (testing every 3 Years) or FIFA Quality Pro certification, with testing required annually.

3G pitches with additional design requirements needed to support specialist rugby i.e. with the associated head-level impact activities - involving tackling, scrummaging and lineouts will be more expensive to construct, maintain and replace. See **ANNEX B**.

AGP systems can be manufactured and installed to the meet the requirements of World Rugby, Rugby Football League (RFL) and International Football (FIFA). But if a pitch is certified by RFL/FIFA, this does not necessarily mean it meets World Rugby regulations.

AGPs used for competitive football at a senior level must be FIFA **certified, both in their in-situ characteristics (installation) and their manufacturing/factory standards.**

The FIFA quality assurance testing includes:

- How the player and surface interact;
- How the ball and surface interact - bounce and roll;
- How the surface reacts to all weather conditions;
- The length of pile – its vertical nature;
- The integrity of the surface and its life cycle;
- The overall constitution and manufacturing integrity;
- Evidence of the maintenance regime to be employed together with an on-site inspection of the equipment that has been recommended to undertake regular maintenance works;
- Monitoring and recording of maintenance activities.

FUTURE PITCH DESIGNS

Many people refer to the development of '4G' pitches. But do they exist?

4G pitches and synthetic turf

Currently there are 4G pitch options available, although these have not been recognised as competitive sport compliant by the National Governing Bodies.

These 4G options stem from the development of 2G and 3G technology and include a mixture of the two pile types. The pitch system is created using a short pile on the bottom, with a long pile sown through, removing the need for any infill material.

Such an artificial surface is more expensive and currently lacks the playing characteristics necessary to receive FIFA accreditation and licensing.

All contractors and manufacturers understand that AGP surfaces and systems must be approved by NGBs, including any new generation sports pitches.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES THAT RESULT FROM 3G PITCH INSTALLATIONS

Undoubtedly there are a number of benefits that arise from having 3G pitch facilities – making them a popular choice of AGP amongst clubs and education institutions.

Users can expect to experience:

- An all-year-round playing surface, in all weather conditions, although snow and frost can be an issue affecting use;
- Reduced maintenance costs when compared with high quality natural turf and hybrid pitches. **However, they are more expensive to maintain** when compared to basic, club standard, grass pitches;
- Environmental benefits include savings in respect of pitch irrigation;
- Set against these benefits are:
    - the high costs of installation;
    - having to spend up no less than £300k between Years 6-10 to replace the carpet of a full sized pitch and perhaps up to £100k in the 2nd replacement cycle to replace any shockpad;
    - additional maintenance obligations and costs (circa £11k per annum);
    - environmentally detrimental impacts, which include:
        - the potential for the pollution of water ways and drainage systems through the migration of rubber crumb and microplastics – spilling off the pitch, via footwear and clothes[1];
        - travel time – grass pitches tend to be 'closer to home' and within a reasonable walking and cycling distance, whereas 3G pitches tend to

demand no less than a 20minute drive time, with the associated negative carbon footprint implications;
- ongoing concerns with regard to the safety of infill materials;
- recycling challenges – the spent materials cannot be landfilled and have to be removed from site, deconstructed via expensive technology or transported and cleansed for re-use in other settings. Further guidance on the recycling of 3G AGPs can be found on page 10;

An update on 3G AGP design and development considerations is summarised in **ANNEX A.**

This guidance recommends that the development of 3G AGPs are generally only considered as a shared club hub facility, for example on an education site, where a number of clubs can share a quality facility, where maximum use can be made of the pitch in the day time, as well as evenings and where the riparian responsibility for maintenance and replacement falls to the Local Authority.

However, even the shared club hub development can only be considered a good approach if it is supported by the necessary feasibility and business planning process - the early preparation of pre-construction plans and establishment of the hub management group, along with access protocols to benefit all hub catchment clubs.

Current evidence in Wales, shows that it is unlikely that single voluntary sector organisations i.e. individual clubs, will be in a position to establish the necessary cash balances to cover the necessary lifecycle costs and thereby secure the sustainability of the facility through the funding of the replacement carpet between Years 6-10.

Therefore, the full potential of artificial surfaces, for most organisations, will only be realised on shared sites and developed through a local authority, education and club partnership.

FAW is preparing facilities plans in partnership with all LAs, and this approach will identify strategic priority areas for the development of future full-sized AGPS.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY

It is becoming increasingly apparent that early AGP projects have accumulated insufficient sinking funds to replace the surface when needed. Therefore, it is essential to evidence that the facility will generate enough money to cover the running costs and a sinking fund to replace the facility in 8-10 years' time. A recent Football Foundation review of AGP operators in England has identified significant shortfalls in replacement carpet sinking funds i.e. shortfalls in the set aside funds of 41%.

Full business and development plans for new full sized AGPs are therefore required to evidence that they are sustainable. The feasibility process must also include a public consultation and gap analysis and demonstrate that the new facility will not negatively impact on the sustainability of an existing facility within proximity (i.e. displace users and revenue).

The importance of feasibility studies cannot be overstated. It is vitally important to get the design of facilities right. With regards to AGPS, because of the significant capital and revenue costs we recommend the early preparation of a detailed investigation and options appraisal informing a feasibility study. This is essential to inform a grant application and to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the facility. We have to be satisfied of enough planned use and income to establish the necessary cash balances to cover the annual maintenance and refurbishment costs and the required set aside fund of c£30k pa, for a replacement carpet every 10 years.

Feasibility studies should include:

- **Local market testing** involving the assessment of:
    - size of catchment population within 20 minutes travel time;
    - other facilities and options appraisals;
    - evidence of sports demand via valid surveys;
    - confirmation of no other full sized AGPs within a 20-minute travel time;
    - the impact of any new facility on the use of existing pitches, avoiding user displacement affecting the sustainability of other facilities. Key points to be investigated include:
        - the current occupancy levels of existing facilities and waiting lists;
        - the comparable prices charged per hour for seniors and juniors;
        - annual income from the main user group which is usually football
        - any existing income generated from your own customer base that would be displaced
    - identification of different sports performance needs, informing the design brief and best choice of surface/system as well as user requirements informing usage and management plans;
    - adjacent schools will also have an important stake and say in the choice of future surface to best serve student needs. However, the choice of surface should also be informed by the number and size of clubs in the surrounding area;

- In terms of demand for hockey, rugby and football we refer to the latest Sport Wales School Sport Survey (2022) and a summary of the key figures are shown in the table below.

Sport Wales Latest School Sport Survey (2022)	Boys % of school aged Young People Yr 3-11	Girls % of school aged Young People Yr 3-11
Any participation Football	77	53
Any participation Hockey	11	14
Any participation Rugby	49	25
Community club participation Football	33	14
Community club participation Hockey	2	3
Community club participation Rugby	19	6
Extra-Curricular participation Football	26	15
Extra-Curricular participation Hockey	4	6
Extra-Curricular participation Rugby	17	9
Latent Demand Football	55	31
Latent Demand Hockey	9	12
Latent Demand Rugby	29	14

The feasibility study should also inform:

- the management/operational plan to include staffing arrangements, marketing and usage plans, to show how the new facility will generate more activity and by whom, with an accessible pricing policy;
- business planning addressing:
  - detailed income and expenditure forecasts;
  - management and maintenance;
  - outline cost plan;
- an assessment of pricing, including a sensitivity and affordability analysis and income set to secure sustainability. Sensitivity analysis to take account of the Local Authority already charging a subsidised rate for public use of their 3Gs and in some cases free use of grass pitches; the preparedness of clubs to pay the 'going rate' to cover lifecycle costs i.e. up to £120 per hour is unlikely to be an easy option for most potential customers See **ANNEX C** for guidance on 3G prices;
- analysis of the organisation's capability through a strength and weaknesses assessment. 3G facilities must **generate net profits of no less than £30k pa to secure sustainability**. The organisation contemplating such a facility must be well established and financially robust, with a healthy current turnover/generating annual surpluses; strong paying membership and a number of working partnerships;

Specialist ground condition surveys and technical feasibility studies should include:

- environmental investigations and feasibility to include ground soak-away capacity testing, water discharge, flood risk assessments, surveys examining the impact on the ecology, and flora, particularly location of trees and avoiding impact on root zones as well as assessments in respect of how floodlights may have an adverse effect on bat movement;
- historic land use i.e. former mining and landfill checks impacting surface stability; discharges; as well as archaeological interests etc.;
- the topography of the area, ground stability, levels, soil profile and condition etc.;
- overhead and underground services;
- best options for pitch orientation;

Feasibility surveys should also assess the pros and cons of the location i.e.:

- check covenants and restrictions on the location i.e. the feasibility of introducing ball catch fencing around the pitch perimeter;
- make sure there is good highways access for a large growth in business footfalls
- avoid an area with overhanging trees to prevent leaf drop
- is it suitable for floodlighting and fencing – not close to housing
- the 3G should be located close to changing rooms, with engineered pathways to enable access without walking over grass, that would lead to grass cuttings and mud migration contaminating the pitch;

Finally, statutory approvals will need to be sought i.e:

- planning consent requirements, with considerations to include access, suitability of local highways, parking, noise and the general impact of floodlighting on the local environment and neighbours;
- all construction work in Wales with drainage implications, of 100m² or more i.e. 3G pitches, is required to have Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage on-site surface water (whether they require planning permission or not) Anything that covers land is classed as a structure for the purposes of the SuDs Approving Body (the SAB) approval.

A full feasibility investigation into all of the above will help inform the preparation of detailed designs informing the choice of pitch design, construction and method/management of procurement and Health and Safety provision.

FACILITY COSTS AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

The following costs are set out in respect of the development of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) at the 3rd Quarter 2024.

Indicative Capital Costs for the Development of AGPs

Training areas with 40mm-50mm pile 3G pitch; fenced; sports lighting – overall dimensions 61mx43m, playing area 55mx40m. Indicative capital costs £500,000 (exclusive of VAT).

Full sized 40mm pile 3G pitch, fenced, with sports lighting – overall dimensions 106mx70m with a playing area of 100mx64m with 3m run-offs to all sides up to the first obstruction.
Indicative capital cost up to £1,150,000 (exclusive of VAT).

Design considerations to reduce the facility capital costs will include:

- Removal of macadam layer and the introduction of an appropriate shockpad;
- The use of existing floodlighting system;
- No perimeter fencing.

In all cases the AGP must have a minimum 3m wide run-off to all first obstructions and must adhere to the following design principles to minimise the migration of infill into the community:

- Fitting containment barriers on a pitch's perimeter fencing made from recycled rubber;
- Installing decontamination grates and boot cleaning brushes at all player and vehicle entrance gates;
- Ensuring all stormwater drains around a pitch have suitable microfilters to capture any infill being carried by surface run-off, etc;
- Keeping a dedicated maintenance brush within the boundaries of the pitch, so it cannot carry infill into the surrounding environment;

More information on Risk Mitigation Measures can be found here

Procurement

The development of 3G pitches should only be procured to organisations who are members of the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA). This will be a condition of any AGP funded via the Cymru Football Foundation. As a condition of membership, SAPCA requires companies to comply with its Codes of Practice and Protocols. This means whenever you employ a SAPCA member to design, build, or maintain your pitch, only an infill that is been registered on the SAPCA Infill Protocol will be specified/used and good design principles identified above will be implemented.

Where possible, all 3G AGPs funded via the Cymru Football Foundation will utilise the Football Foundation's AGP framework to ensure consistent procurement, design and delivery standards.

Tender Cost Inflation

Tender prices increased by 2.1% in the year to 4Q24. Price inflation is expected to continue throughout 2025/26 with tender prices forecast to rise by approximately 4% in 2025 and 3.5% in 2026 with variation due to procurement and project type, and regional factors.

Future Developments

In light of the proposed phasing out of rubber infill, the CFF has decided that all new AGP projects shall incorporate a shock-pad to help future proof pitches and reduce rubber crumb infill. This will necessitate an additional cost of £80-100K per pitch however will reduce the costs of transitioning to an alternative infill material on pitch renewal.

Going forward, CFF will also consider:

- encouraging the use of alternative organic infills
- when it will no longer fund AGPs with Micro-plastics – based on advice from the UK Stakeholder Group and any UK legislative directives

LIFECYCLE AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS

The current costs of replacing a 3G carpet or sand filled/short pile AGP with a 3G AGP (assuming the underlying shockpad is in a fit state for re-use) is c£400,000 (exclusive of VAT) excluding recycling costs. It should be noted that where previously the repurposing of end-of-life carpet was encouraged, this is no longer the case. All materials must be disposed of legally and satisfy environmental legislation linked to sustainability and waste management. Detailed guidance on processing end of life turf can be found here

Sustainable business plans

The following guidance has been prepared to assist organisations with their development of business plans for future developments. What follows are indicative costs associated with long-term maintenance and the replacement of major components over the life of the facility.

Typical annual allowances are expressed as percentages of the overall estimated total project costs based on a 25-year cost model. Noting however, that for FIFA Quality Certified facilities, carpet replacements may be required between years 6 and 9, depending on intensity and type of use, correct use of footwear, appropriate maintenance – regular brushing and renovation works in accordance with the manufacturer and contractor's post completion instructions and conditions of warranty.

Training areas with 40mm-50mm pile 3G pitch; fenced; sports lighting – overall dimensions 61mx43m - sinking fund 2.8% pa maintenance 0.4% pa.

Full sized 40mm pile 3G pitch, fenced, with sports lighting – overall dimensions 106mx70m with – sinking fund 2.9% pa maintenance 0.5% pa.

The annual sinking fund and maintenance costs for a full-sized pitch are therefore c£30,000 pa sinking fund and no less than £5,000 pa maintenance.

A summary analysis of the base operational costs for 3G pitches (excluding management, marketing and staff costs) are summarised below[2]:

Floodlighting		**Per Annum**
	Utilities (floodlights)	£6,273
	Lamp replacement	£600
	Maintenance	£500
Repair & Maintenance		
	Annual maintenance contract	£4,500
	Regular maintenance	£3,800
	Rubber crumb top up	£2,000
	Pitch testing	£433
	Equipment replacement	£2,000

[2] DCMS Grassroots Needs Assessment June 2022. 4Global.

Sinking Fund		
	Carpet replacement	£30,000
Total		**£50,106**

Maintenance Requirements

Regular maintenance will be required - a ratio of 1 hour's maintenance to 8-10 hours' use, together with quarterly inspections and maintenance by an approved company to reduce the compaction of the infill material ensuring consistent ball bounce, will be a certification requirement.

For informal community use, litter bins will be required and attention should be given to the route from any changing rooms to the 3G pitch – grass and soil will quickly migrate to contaminate the infill material.

Leaves, moss and weeds must be removed from around the edges of the pitch where the mechanical brushes find it difficult to work.

Rejuvenation will be required at some point in the lifetime of the carpet, to maintain the integrity of the pitch and in particular its porosity – this work could cost up to £35,000 plus vat.

Maintenance logs must be kept to avoid any future disputes and these should include an analysis of usage over the same period.

Definitions

Sinking Fund - major replacement costs, typically to include replacement of the carpet shockpad, fencing and floodlighting, redecoration of fencing and relining of the pitch.

Maintenance – day to day repairs and planned maintenance, to include the application of herbicide sprays and moss killers, infill top-up/redress where required, drag brushing to comply with manufacturers guidance.

For a FIFA Quality pitch, an inspection report and certification is required every 3 years.

Exclusions

All operating costs and end of life costs together with the management and marketing of the facility have been excluded. These costs will include cleaning, utilities, loan repayments, taxes and other overhead costs.

Occupation costs may also include security, telephones, furniture, fixtures and fittings.

End of life costs will include disposals, demolition and reinstatement to satisfy any contractual requirements – returning the facility to a natural turf pitch.

ANNEX A: UPDATED POSITION STATEMENT ON 3G PITCHES (DECEMBER 2023)

Joint statement from Sport England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Sport Scotland, Sport Wales, the Grounds Management Association, Football Foundation, The Football Association, Cymru Football Foundation, Welsh Rugby Union, Rugby Football League, Sports and Play Construction Association and England Rugby.

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) provide a high-quality surface that are an integral part of modern community sport.

Recognised as durable, safe, year-round playing surfaces, they're able to withstand intensive use and all kinds of weather.

A properly maintained AGP can sustain up to 80 hours of use a week, providing an average of around 1,400 playing opportunities. This compares favourably to a good quality grass pitch, which can sustain just six hours a week, accommodating an average of around 100 playing opportunities.

This means many people are able to engage in sport and physical activity regardless of the weather when otherwise matches would be cancelled.

AGPs therefore enable more people to experience the benefits of being active, such as improved physical health and mental wellbeing and improved confidence.

They're used for playing many different sports, including football, hockey and rugby; and provide safe spaces for people to come together and connect, helping unite communities.

It's critical that our sports facilities are flexible and resilient to reflect the real everyday requirements of users and meet societal changes.

However, concerns have been raised about the environmental impact of these pitches. These have mostly related to microplastics in the form of rubber infill getting into the ecosystem and the need for greater focus on the end-of-life recycling of pitches. We understand these concerns and are taking them very seriously.

In September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G AGPs.

The Commission has confirmed an eight-year transition period before the new restriction becomes effective and from October 2031, you'll no longer be able to purchase rubber crumb within the EU.

The ruling does not prevent the continued use of this material for AGPs, nor does it prevent the construction of new pitches with rubber crumb infill before 2031 – but it may make the maintenance of these pitches after this time difficult.

The transition period is important because it allows the 3G AGPs that are in widespread use by communities across Europe, to continue to be used and maintained until they reach their end-of-life.

Replacement surfaces are very expensive, and many communities would simply be unable to afford to do so before the end of the transition.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, the regulatory framework for these matters now sits at a UK level (except for Northern Ireland, which continues to follow EU REACH requirements).

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently commissioned an evidence project to review emissions of intentionally added microplastics in the UK, including rubber infill.

The project is expected to report in spring 2025 and will inform any future regulatory actions in Great Britain.

The Sports Councils – Sport England, Sport Wales, sportscotland, Sport NI – and leading sport bodies continue to work together and with respective governments to understand what the EU ban will mean for the stock of 3G AGPs in the UK, and the timings for any legislative decisions.

As stakeholders, in the community sport landscape we're committed to exploring alternative artificial pitch systems, more sustainable infill products and increasing recycling capacity available to sports providers nationwide.

This commitment is reinforced through Sport England's Sustainability Strategy 'Every Move'. Sport England will work with partners and stakeholders, including the Football Foundation, to explore viable alternatives to the rubber infill used in third generation 3G AGPs and improved recycling opportunities and processes, given concerns about plastic pollution and waste.

Examples of this include the Football Foundation's significant investment in its own 'test hub' to research alternative infill materials.

Many of the alternatives to rubber crumb are new to the market, and little is known about their performance, durability, availability, lifecycle cost and importantly the impact on player experience.

We are entering a period where there will be choices to make and it's important that data exists to help future AGP owners make the right choice for their pitch.

Until we have a clearer understanding of these alternatives, we believe that the adoption of containment measures is an important and responsible approach to prevent the migration of microplastics.

The Football Foundation has followed European Technical Guidance since 2020, installing containment measures on all its funded pitches.

We know from studies around Europe that good design can reduce infill loss by 98%.

In partnership with the Football Foundation, Sport England is also undertaking research on the efficacy of containment measures and we're commited to making the research available as soon as possible.

We acknowledge the difficulty in trying to balance the health and well-being benefits that come from the use of 3G pitches with environmental sustainability factors. However, it is also important to note that there are currently no widely available alternative infill products with proven durability on the market that are as effective, suitable for all UK weather conditions and deliver the required performance standards.

We'll continue to work with partners across the UK and Europe to research and reduce the spread of microplastics into the environment.

More information will be published as discussions progress

The Cymru Football Foundation follows European Technical Guidance, installing containment measures on all its funded pitches. We acknowledge the difficulty in trying to balance the health and well-being benefits that come from the use of 3G pitches with environmental sustainability factors.

However, **it is also important to note that there are currently no widely available alternative infill products with proven durability on the market that are as effective, suitable for all UK weather conditions and deliver the required performance standards.** We will continue to work with partners across the UK and Europe to research and reduce the spread of microplastics into the environment. More information will be published as discussions progress.

Click here to download FAQs

ANNEX B: INDICATIVE GUIDANCE ON WORLD RUGBY 3G STANDARDS

Artificial Rugby Turf is the term used by World Rugby to describe artificial surfaces used in the game of Rugby Union. The cross section of the facilities construction is described as follows:

- Artificial Rugby Turf Pile;
- Performance infill (rubber);
- Stabilising infill (sand);
- Primary and secondary backing;
- Shockpad;
- Porous macadam layer;
- Constructed over stone base with appropriate drainage system below.

A 3G pitch can only be suitable for contact Rugby Union matches or training where the pitch has an up-to-date test certificate that demonstrates compliance with World Rugby Regulation 22. This test must be carried out by an accredited World Rugby test institute.

World Rugby Regulation 22 relates to the performance standard of the pitch and measures criteria such as head impact, skin friction, joint strengths and energy restitution. These tests reflect the characteristics of a good quality natural turf rugby pitch. The facility must past Regulation 22 on completion and the certificate must be renewed every 2 years.

AGP systems can be manufactured and installed to the meet the requirements of World Rugby, Rugby Football League (RFL) and International Football (FIFA). **But if a pitch is certified by RFL/FIFA, this does not necessarily mean it meets World Rugby regulations.**

ANNEX C: A GUIDE TO CURRENT 3G PRICES

Income generated needs to cover the cost of any staffing and management plus maintenance at over £50k pa (allowing for cost of replacement carpets @ £400k every c10 years)

3G pitch hire charges range depending on the use and provider and their capacity to subsidise ie:

- From full sized pitch to half size to 1/3 size
- From members to non-members
- From Seniors to Juniors
- Plus, different for match rates
- Plus, some don't advertise and do negotiated rates

Those that are cheaper – are generally Local Authority subsidised membership rates and/or those not setting aside a sinking fund or paying enough for maintenance and rejuvenation. Or maybe the pitch is just poor quality or not a venue of choice.

There are many reasons for variables, but as a guide - here is a sample of full-sized pitch prices per hour (Only the Full-Sized pitch price is provided to give a simple benchmark):

- **LA subsidised rates** £55-£65 e.g.**:**
  - Seniors £75 – £100 members/non members
  - Juniors £45-£60 members/non members
- **Club operator rates**
  - £65 -£75 seniors
  - £52 juniors
- **Independent or commercial operator rates**
  - £115- £125 seniors

Expected	
Income (Min Per Annum)	£128,700.00
Expenditure (Min Per Annum)	£60,778.80
Profit (Min Per Annum)	£67,921.20

Income (Based on *draft* usage plan)					
Users	**Hours Per Week**	**Pitch Usage**	**Min Expected Rate**	**Expected Income**	**Annual**
Mini Club 1	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Mini Club 2	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Mini Club 3	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Mini Club 4	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Mini Club 5	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Junior Club 1	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Junior Club 2	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Junior Club 3	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Junior Club 4	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Junior Club 5	3	Half	£22.50	£67.50	£3,510.00
Youth Club 1	5	Full	£45.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Youth Club 2	5	Full	£45.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Youth Club 3	5	Full	£45.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Youth Club 4	5	Full	£45.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Youth Club 5	5	Full	£45.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Senior Club 1	3	Full	£75.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Senior Club 2	3	Full	£75.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
Senior Club 3	3	Full	£75.00	£225.00	£11,700.00
TOTAL					**£128,700.00**

Expected Expenditure		**Per Annum**
Floodlighting	Utilities (floodlights) £6,273	£6,273.00
	Lamp replacement £600	£600.00
	Maintenance £500	£500.00
Repair & Maintenance	Annual maintenance contract £4,500	£4,500.00
	Regular maintenance £3,800	£3,800.00
	Rubber crumb top up £2,000	£2,000.00
	Pitch testing £433	£433.00
	Equipment replacement £2,000	£2,000.00
Sinking Fund	Carpet replacement £30,000	£30,000.00
Staff Costs	Staff costs for opening/closing	£5,896.80
Booking Management	Administration Costs	£3,276.00
Marketing	Marketing Costs	£1,500.00
Total		**£60,778.80**

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL NET ZERO STRATEGY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**GROUP MANAGER ECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon existing policy framework or procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared a climate emergency in June 2020 and set up a Climate Emergency Response programme. In 2021, BCBC developed its Net Zero Carbon Strategy, which was formally adopted by the Cabinet in January 2023. The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on work undertaken to review the draft Bridgend County Borough Council Net Zero Strategy (Appendix 1) and to seek approval to undertake public consultation on the revised Strategy (Appendix 2).

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on work undertaken to review the draft Bridgend County Borough Council Net Zero Strategy (**Appendix 1**) and to seek approval to undertake public consultation on the revised Strategy (**Appendix 2**).

2. Background

2.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared a climate emergency in June 2020 and set up a Climate Emergency Response programme. In 2021, BCBC developed its Net Zero Carbon Strategy, which was formally adopted by the Cabinet in January 2023.This commits to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations, aligning with Welsh public sector ambitions. This goal is driven by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and the Climate Change Act 2008. BCBC follows the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Process for its annual carbon footprint.

2.2 The Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, promotes the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, balancing the competing priorities of building the necessary infrastructure and protecting vital ecosystems. The Act requires Welsh Ministers to set decarbonisation targets and carbon budgets – an essential first step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 sets the target for Wales to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

2.3 In 2019, Welsh Ministers and the Senedd declared a climate emergency, reaffirming Wales' commitment and determination to tackle the climate crisis. To achieve Net Zero by 2050, a series of 5-year carbon budgets between 2016 and 2050 have been agreed by the Welsh Government in Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2, published in 2021. This outlines 123 policies and proposals to meet the second of these carbon budgets (2021-2025), by reducing emissions by 37% against the baseline.

2.4 Net Zero Wales also has the collective ambition for the public sector to achieve Net Zero by 2030. In line with this commitment, the Welsh Government Net Zero Strategic Plan (2022) sets the approach for their own operational and supply chain emissions. Current modelling shows a gap between ambition and delivery.

2.5 As a result of the adoption of the Strategy, officers put forward a growth pressure revenue bid for funding of £758,000 per year. The Council did not have sufficient funding to provide any growth for this service. Alongside this, whilst an initial sum of £400,000 capital funding per year for decarbonisation was allocated in the capital programme, this reduced to £150,000 per year in 2023/24. Despite limited funding BCBC has implemented some decarbonisation projects across key areas, such as buildings, transport, and land use, but progress has been hampered due to the Council's financial challenges, which are challenges faced by all Local authorities across Wales and the UK. The Council, therefore, relies significantly on external grant funds being available and secured to have the resources to take forward its Net Zero Strategy.

2.6 Over the past five years, BCBC's emissions have fluctuated, peaking in 2021/22, followed by a significant decline in 2022/23 and a subsequent increase in 2023/24. Overall, total emissions have decreased by 3.4% since 2019/20.

2.7 Supply chain is the largest emission category. In 2023/24, supply chain emissions were 71% of the total footprint, a 7% decrease from 2020/21.

2.8 Building emissions have remained relatively stable at around 17% of the total footprint, however, this masks a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption over the past year. In 2023/24, fossil fuel use fell by 21%, while electricity consumption increased by 11%.

2.9 Transport emissions have increased, rising from 4% of the total in 2020/21 to 9% in 2023/24. This increase is primarily due to the inclusion of commuting and homeworking emissions from 2023 onwards, as well as greater vehicle use following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Waste emissions remain low and stable, contributing just 2% of total emissions in 2023/24.

2.10 Recognising the need for continuous improvement, BCBC committed to reviewing the Strategy in 2024 and 2027 to account for policy changes, technological advancements and market developments. This review assessed progress against the Strategy's objectives, updating emissions modelling, and refining action plans.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 The Strategy has been reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose, reflects current UK and Welsh Government policy, the latest technologies and regulation, and commercial / financial options. This will provide assurance that the actions within the strategy are being delivered in the most efficient way. The review included:

- A review of the suitability of the existing action plans, governance arrangements, and alignment with current Welsh Government policy.
- An update of the emissions modelling and trajectory to 2030 incorporating outputs from completed annual emissions reports.
- Recommendations for modifications to governance arrangements and action plans, simplifying/rationalising where possible, for continued delivery.
- An appraisal of potential options for offsetting residual emissions in 2030.
- Estimated cost for delivery of actions and achievement of net zero by 2030

3.2 The full review report can be seen at **Appendix 1** and the outcomes of the review are summarised below.

3.3 **Governance**

Oversight of strategy delivery is by the Decarbonisation Programme Board which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment. The current Strategy assigns each activity stream a 'Carbon Lead' to ensure that every area is represented across the organisation. These are individual senior officers who will review progress against existing action plans and report back to the Programme Board. This has proven to be difficult in practice largely because of a lack of capacity and difficulty coordinating Carbon Lead areas that span across multiple service areas e.g. Transport, Land Use.

The reviewed strategy proposes that the individual carbon leads are replaced by Communities of Practice (CoP), which are formal groups made up of officers that are actively involved in delivering elements of the strategy, with a Terms of Reference, Chair and rolling agenda. Members will be practitioners so will be in positions where they are able to enact change and share knowledge across the organisation which should lead to more effective delivery of actions.

3.4 **Action plans**

The actions set in the original strategy to achieve net zero by 2030 were reviewed to evaluate progress. Changes are proposed to remove those actions that have been achieved, revise or clarify action descriptions so that they are more deliverable, and move actions under appropriate Communities of Practice.

3.5 **Emissions and cost modelling**

The emissions model originally developed for BCBC's 2021 Net Zero Strategy has been updated to reflect actual emissions from 2021 to 2024 and to incorporate the revised actions identified during the strategy review. The updated model quantifies the emissions reductions associated with the proposed decarbonisation actions and outlines the projected emissions pathway to 2030. This helps to estimate the gap to target (i.e. the remaining carbon emissions). Based on this, a high-level offsetting analysis was carried out to explore potential options for addressing residual emissions. Alongside the emissions modelling, there is an estimate of the costs of the proposed decarbonisation actions to provide an understanding of the investment required to progress the strategy.

3.6 It is proposed that Cabinet consider the draft Bridgend County Borough Council Net Zero Strategy review **(Appendix 1)** and approve a public consultation for an anticipated period of 8-10 weeks on the revised Strategy **(Appendix 2).** It is proposed that a further report be presented to Cabinet following the public consultation and seeking approval of the Strategy.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 Long term – Tackling climate Change through mitigation is a long term activity and often across several generations to enact the behaviour change required to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Integration – activities identified in this report promotes a shift towards sustainable practices and demonstrates our commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship, inspiring others to adopt similar initiatives. This holistic approach ensures that our project supports multiple well-being goals and aligns with the objectives of other public bodies.

Involvement – Engaging stakeholders with an interest in achieving activities identified in this report promotes action on climate change and demonstrates leadership to businesses, local community groups, environmental organisations, and council members.

Collaboration – Internally, we collaborate with various departments within the council to ensure alignment with broader sustainability goals and to secure necessary resources. Externally, we partner with suppliers and other public sector organisations to enhance our outreach efforts and share best practices. These partnerships enable us to pool resources, expertise, and networks, ensuring a comprehensive approach to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. By working

together, we can more effectively address the well-being goals of reducing carbon emissions.

Prevention – Activities identified in this report should over the longer term reduce our negative impact on greenhouse gas emissions. This has a direct impact on the wellbeing and future generations so they have at least the same quality of life as we do now.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The Strategy is directly linked to climate change mitigation through the decarbonisation of the activities of Bridgend County Borough Council. Implementing all actions will reduce annual emissions by approximately 30,000tCO_2e from a 2019-20 baseline.

6.2 There are specific actions to maintain all owned woodland and greenfield areas are in a way to promote enhanced biodiversity, identify and maintain any peatland, avoid any unnecessary loss of carbon sequestration, and prioritise areas for afforestation/reforestation and biodiversity programmes.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 No safeguarding or Corporate Parent implications associated with this report in line with the risks identified in the Safeguarding Policy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The draft strategy estimates the total cost to achieve net zero to be approximately £109.65m. The estimate however is indicative and excludes whole-life costs and like-for-like replacement comparisons. To gain a more accurate understanding of actual costs of each potential action in delivering the strategy it is important to understand that costs associated with delivering Council services will be incurred regardless, with assets such as heating systems and vehicles having to be replaced periodically by the Council. Therefore, the actual cost of any 'net-zero' option would be the difference between that option and any 'non net-zero option', and the same principle would apply to on-going revenue implications. Individual business cases will identify the cost difference between business as usual fossil fuel and low carbon options.

8.2 Grant funding has been, and will continue to be, an important mechanism to deliver actions that progress the decarbonisation of BCBC operations. Since 2021 BCBC has been awarded grants from Welsh Government and the Shared Prosperity Fund of £1.42m for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, £1.1m for low carbon heating systems and solar PV, and a £204k interest free loan for LED lighting and solar PV with battery storage. Due to the amount of BCBC funding allocated towards delivering the Net Zero Strategy, the availability of external funds, and officer's abilities to secure them, will be essential in order for substantive progress to be made.

8.3 From 2025-26 to 2030-31 Council have approved a £150,000 annual capital allocation to support the Council with match funding for climate response grant bids.

8.4 The cost of incorporating net zero in major builds, e.g new schools, will be built into each individual scheme's capital budget.

8.5 The programme is supported by a revenue budget that is solely used to employ the Decarbonisation Programme Manager and Decarbonisation Programme Officer.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet consider the Bridgend County Borough Council Net Zero Strategy review **(Appendix 1)** and approve a public consultation on the revised Strategy **(Appendix 2);**

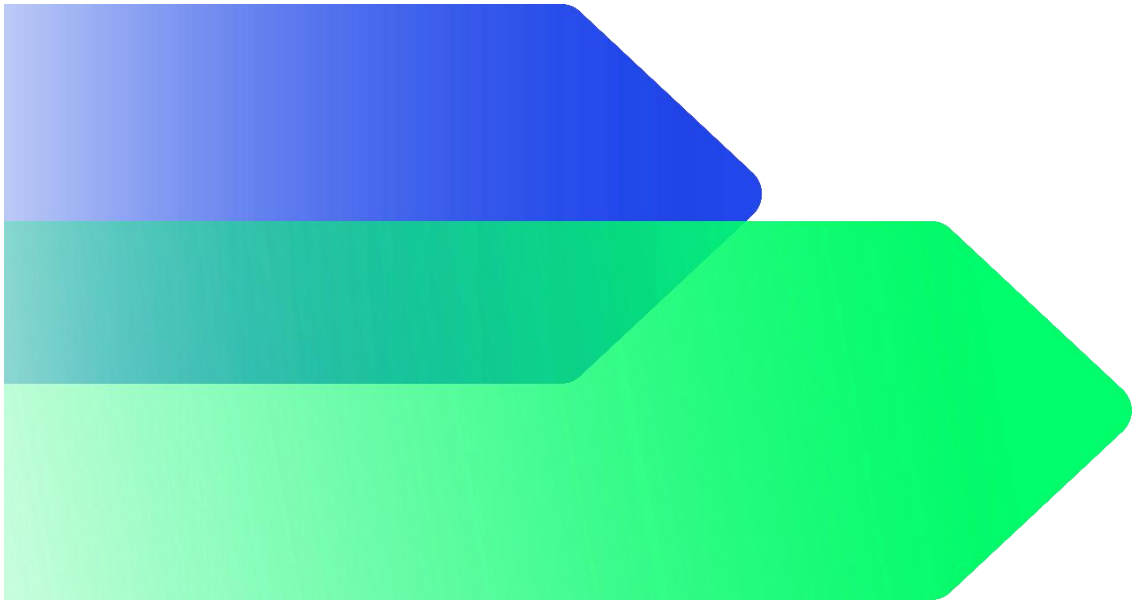
9.2 Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the public consultation and seeking approval of the Strategy.

Background documents

None

2030 NET ZERO STRATEGY: PROGRESS REVIEW
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 2025



THE CARBON TRUST

Our mission is to accelerate the move to a decarbonised future.

We have been climate pioneers for more than 20 years, partnering with leading businesses, governments and financial institutions globally. From strategic planning and target setting to activation and communication - we are your expert guide to turn your climate ambition into impact.

We are one global network of 400 experts with offices in the UK, the Netherlands, South Africa, Singapore and Mexico. To date, we have helped set 200+ science-based targets and guided 3,000+ organisations in 70 countries on their route to Net Zero.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has set out a vision for achieving Net Zero carbon emissions from its operations by 2030. This Strategy Review reflects on the progress made so far and updates the pathway toward achieving this goal.

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2020 and adopting a Net Zero Strategy in 2021, BCBC has taken steps to reduce emissions across its operations. While some progress has been made, this review highlights the need to strengthen internal governance, streamline delivery mechanisms and embed decarbonisation within wider council decision-making processes and practices.

A review of the original action plan was undertaken to understand progress to date and identify areas where further action is needed. Following this, the action plan was refined to focus on high-impact, feasible actions. Each initiative was assessed against criteria such as relevance, deliverability, and emissions reduction potential. Low-priority or outdated actions were removed or redefined. The resulting streamlined action list supports a more strategic, coordinated, and manageable approach to delivery.

A key focus of this review has been governance and delivery. In consultation with relevant officers across BCBC, via workshop sessions and one-to-one interviews, the Strategy's governance structure has been updated to support delivery and implementation. A new hybrid model has been developed, building on the existing Carbon Lead roles and incorporating a Communities of Practice approach. These cross-departmental groups will lead on priority themes: estates, fleet and procurement. The aim is to promote collaboration, build internal capacity and fix decarbonisation into day-to-day operations while ensuring continuity with established roles and responsibilities.

Carbon emissions modelling has been updated to assess the impact of proposed measures. Under a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario, residual emissions in 2030 are projected at 54,656 tCO_2e. With full implementation of the recommended initiatives, this gap to Net Zero reduces to 36,996 tCO_2e. The total investment required to deliver these initiatives is estimated at £109.65 million. While substantial, this figure reflects necessary asset renewal and is expected to be spread over several years. The estimate is indicative and excludes whole-life costs and like-for-like replacement comparisons. A significant portion of the estimated cost (~80%) relates to assets such as heating systems and vehicles that would require replacement regardless. Moreover, low-carbon technologies such as solar photovoltaic (PV), LED lighting, and insulation are more likely to attract external funding through grants or loans.

Finally, recognising that some emissions will remain unavoidable by 2030, the Strategy outlines options for offsetting, distinguishing between local (insetting) and global mechanisms. While offsetting should be a last resort, a clear framework will be needed to ensure that any future approach aligns with BCBC's values and delivers meaningful environmental and community benefits.

This review provides BCBC with a refreshed strategic direction and practical tools to accelerate its decarbonisation journey, with clearer prioritisation, strengthened delivery structures, and a better understanding of future investment needs.

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report assesses progress against Bridgend County Borough Council's ('BCBC' / 'the Council') 2030 Net Zero Strategy and provides insights to inform the next implementation phase. The Carbon Trust has produced this report following in-depth engagement with key Council stakeholders and an objective review of documentation and data related to progress against the Strategy. A full list of the reviewed documents and stakeholders engaged is provided in Appendix A. BCBC should use the contents of this report and accompanying outputs to revise its Net Zero Strategy as appropriate.

The first chapter of this report outlines the current policy landscape, including key Welsh Government policies and legislation relevant to BCBC's Net Zero Strategy. It sets the context for the review by summarising progress against BCBC's own corporate policies and decarbonisation initiatives and presents BCBC's latest carbon footprint against the 2019/20 baseline footprint.

The second chapter evaluates BCBC's progress in implementing its 2030 Net Zero Strategy, assessing actions taken across the six main activity streams: Carbon Management, Buildings, Transport, Land Use, Waste and Procurement. The review assesses project progress since 2021 and outlines developments, plans, successes and challenges.

Every action received a qualitative score (1–5), assessing the progress made to date against the original Net Zero Strategy (e.g. 'minimal' to 'sector-leading'). The scoring methodology is detailed in Appendix B.

The third chapter evaluates the governance of BCBC's Net Zero Strategy, informed by interviews with the six Carbon Leads and feedback from a presentation to the Decarbonisation Programme Board. This section reviews the structures, processes, and leadership mechanisms in place to drive progress and identifies areas for improvement in Strategy coordination and accountability.

The fourth chapter outlines the emission and cost modelling for the recommended actions. The chapter provides an update to BCBC's emission model and projections, assesses the 'gap to target' for 2030 goals, estimates project costs and appraises potential offsetting options.

1.1 DRIVERS FOR DECARBONISATION

WALES AND WELSH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Wales has been at the forefront of environmental, social and governance improvements, accounting for climate change impacts on future generations and enshrining in law mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce the worst consequences of global heating.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015, requires public bodies to work together to improve the "social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales." The world-leading Act sets out seven well-being goals addressing challenges, including climate change, to ensure that future generations have a good quality of life.

The Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, promotes the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, balancing the competing priorities of building the necessary infrastructure and protecting vital ecosystems. The Act requires Welsh Ministers to set decarbonisation targets and carbon budgets – an essential first step in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The revision to the Act (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 sets the target for Wales to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

In 2019, Welsh Ministers and the Senedd **declared a climate emergency**, reaffirming Wales' commitment and determination to tackle the climate crisis. Subsequently, the Welsh Government published its **Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales** – a plan that sets out what the Welsh Government is doing and will do to respond to the changing climate.

To achieve Net Zero by 2050, a series of 5-year carbon budgets between 2016 and 2050 have been agreed by the Welsh Government in **Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2**, published in 2021. This outlines 123 policies and proposals to meet the second of these carbon budgets (2021-2025), by reducing emissions by 37% against the baseline.

Net Zero Wales also has the collective ambition for the public sector to achieve Net Zero by 2030. In line with this commitment, the **Welsh Government Net Zero Strategic Plan (2022)** sets the approach for their own operational and supply chain emissions. Current modelling shows a gap between ambition and delivery.

Welsh Ministers have the ambition for public bodies and community enterprises in Wales to develop over 100MW of new renewable capacity by 2026. They also aim for 1.5GW of electricity generated in Wales to be locally owned by 2035.

The **Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act, 2023,** places a statutory duty on certain public bodies to consider socially responsible procurement. Public sector buyers will be legally required to award contracts based on the Most Advantageous Tender (MAT), rather than the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT). The Act enables consideration of broader community benefits, such as reducing carbon emissions.

REVIEWING THE 2030 NET ZERO TARGET FOR THE WELSH PUBLIC SECTOR

The feasibility of the 2030 Net Zero ambition for the Welsh public sector is increasingly under discussion. While the Welsh Government has not formally revised the target, there is recognition that significant challenges exist, particularly for local authorities facing financial, operational, and policy constraints. A review of the approach to the 2030 target is expected next year, which may lead to further strategic adjustments.

The Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) worked alongside the Welsh Government in 2022 to develop its plan for achieving Net Zero as an organisation, set out in the Welsh Government's Net Zero Strategic Plan. As part of this process, the Welsh Government aligned itself with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) standard, adopting a minimum 90% reduction target by 2030 (on total emissions) relative to its 2019/20 baseline. Although SBTi was originally designed for private sector organisations, it was chosen not only due to the absence of a dedicated public sector Net Zero standard, but also because it ensures alignment with climate science, providing a robust, evidence-based approach to emissions reduction. Under this framework, the Welsh Government will prioritise reducing emissions as much as possible before considering offsetting any remaining residual emissions.

However, there is currently no firm decision on whether this approach will be extended across the wider public sector, creating some uncertainty for local authorities regarding alignment. Additionally, new Net Zero standards and reporting frameworks are emerging, suggesting that further policy developments could influence how the 2030 target is implemented.

Given these uncertainties, local authorities are advised to maintain their current course, continue implementing feasible decarbonisation measures, track progress with the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting scheme and closely monitor evolving policy developments to ensure alignment with future strategic adjustments.

1.2 BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL PROGRESS

BRIDGEND CORPORATE POLICIES

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared a climate emergency in June 2020 and set up a Climate Emergency Response programme. This commits to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations, aligning with Welsh public sector ambitions. This goal is driven by the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Environment Act, and the Climate Change Regulations (Carbon Budgets). BCBC follows the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Process for its annual carbon footprint. Recognising its leadership role, BCBC aims to enable broader Net Zero goals for local businesses and communities. Decarbonisation is a priority in BCBC's Corporate Plan. Climate change decision-making is integrated through Bridgend's Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan.

In 2021, BCBC developed its Net Zero Carbon Strategy, in collaboration with the Carbon Trust, which was formally adopted by the Cabinet in January 2023. The Strategy outlines six priority action plans covering carbon management, buildings, transport, procurement, land use and waste, alongside governance arrangements to support delivery.

Recognising the need for continuous improvement, BCBC committed to reviewing the Strategy in 2024 and 2027 to account for policy changes, technological advancements and market developments. This report forms part of the 2024 review, assessing progress against the Strategy's objectives, updating emissions modelling, and refining action plans to ensure they remain aligned with Welsh and UK policy.

BRIDGEND RECENT PROGRESS

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2020 and publishing its 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy in 2021, BCBC has taken steps to reduce carbon emissions across its operations and support the county's transition to Net Zero. Over the past three years, the Council has implemented decarbonisation projects across key areas, such as buildings, transport, and land use.

Progress has been materially hampered due to the Council's financial challenges. Budgetary pressures meant the programme was not granted the requested revenue to implement the actions after the Strategy was adopted. Local authorities across Wales and the UK are faced with these challenges.

A summary of recent and active schemes progressing decarbonisation across the themes of buildings, transport, land use, and procurement is shown in Table 1 below.

A detailed assessment of all action areas outlined in the Strategy is presented in Chapter 2, evaluating progress, identifying gaps and determining where further acceleration or adjustments are needed.

While these achievements mark progress, the carbon footprint data in the next section (1.3 Carbon Footprint and Baseline) demonstrates that much more remains to be done. The scale and pace of the required transformation demand sustained effort, increased investment and continuous adaptation.

Table 1 - BCBC decarbonisation actions since 2021

Transport	Buildings	Land Use	Procurement
• LED street lighting • Porthcawl - new bus terminus • Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure installed across the BCBC estate • Ultra-low emission vehicle (ULEV) infrastructure • Active travel provision	• Re:fit Cymru –retrofit programme • Bridgend District Heat Network • Bryncethin Depot – solar PV, LED & battery storage • Roof mount solar PV – multi-site • 21st Century Schools Programme • Site audits and control optimisation of all school and office sites • Low Carbon Heat Grant - round 2 (Installing air source heat pumps at two sites)	• Coastal protection scheme • Extending Local Nature Reserves areas • Feasibility – land-based renewables • Tree planting – i-Tree eco study • New Local Development Plan	• Regional procurement networks • Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy

1.3 CARBON FOOTPRINT AND BASELINE

BASELINE

The baseline year for BCBC's Net Zero Strategy is 2019/20, aligning with the Welsh Government's initial commitment to a Net Zero public sector and the first year of Net Zero Reporting.

As part of the development of the 2021 Net Zero Strategy, BCBC's 2019/20 total carbon footprint was estimated at approximately 90,241 tCO_2e, broken down as follows. For a detailed breakdown of the emission categories included in the footprint, see Appendix C.

- Scope 1: 6,106 tCO_2e
- Scope 2 : 4,983 tCO_2e
- Scope 3 : 79,152 tCO_2e[1]

However, subsequent calculations under the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting methodology produced a different footprint figure for 2019/20, with total emissions estimated at 67,011 tCO_2e, broken down as follows:

- Scope 1: 6,146 tCO_2e
- Scope 2: 5,405 tCO_2e
- Scope 3: 55,459 tCO_2e

Figure 1 – 2021 Strategy 2019/20 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO_2e)

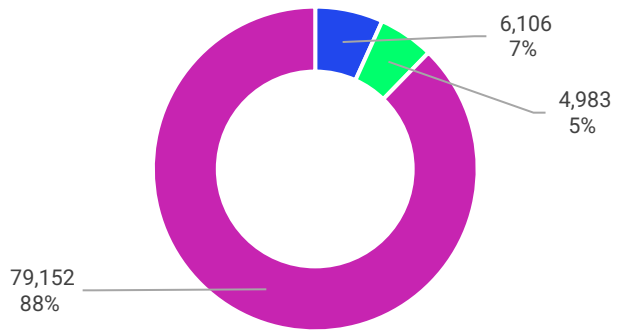
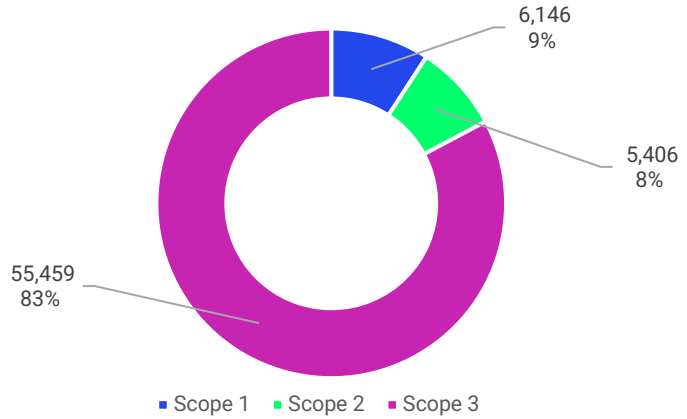


Figure 2 – Net Zero Reporting 2019/20 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO_2e)



[1] Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions that are owned or controlled by the organisation, such as gas consumption for heating buildings or fuel consumption for the Council's fleet. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heat or steam. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions, such as those from supply chains, business travel and employee commuting.

The difference in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions is minimal. The bigger discrepancy is in purchased goods and services in Scope 3. This difference is primarily due to differences in emission factor values in the calculations:

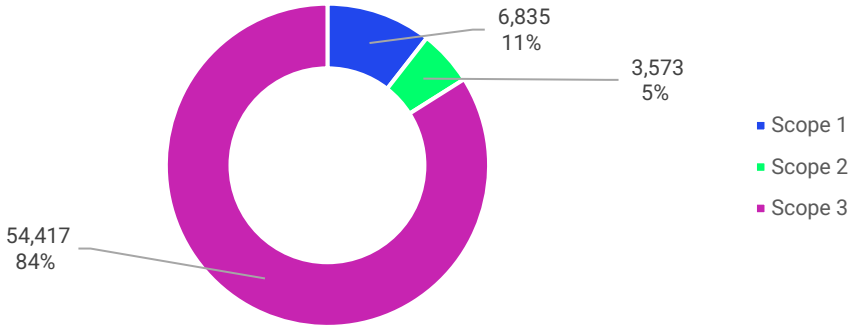
- The footprint calculated during **Strategy** development applied **Environmentally Extended Input-Output (EEIO)** factors
- The footprint calculated under the **Net Zero Reporting** used DEFRA published **Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)** emission factors.

As the Net Zero Reporting methodology is now the standard methodology for the Welsh public sector, BCBC's baseline has been updated to align with this approach (e.g. from now on, the emission figure used for 2019/20 will be 67,010 tCO_2e). This ensures consistency and provides access to multiple years of data using a standardised methodology.

2023/24 CARBON FOOTPRINT

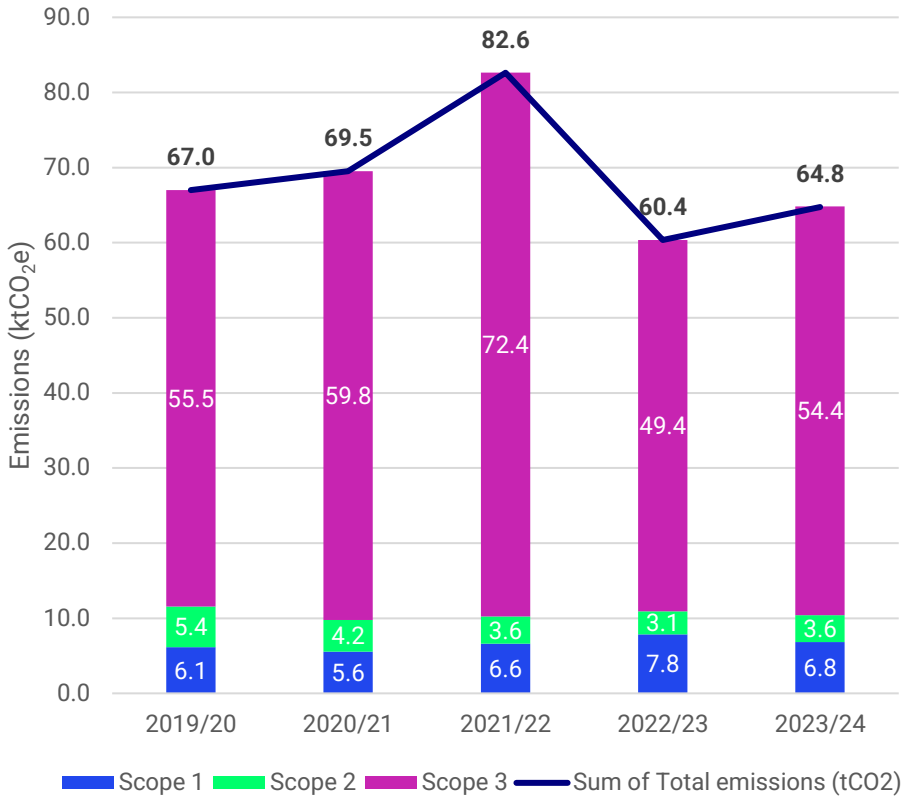
The total estimated carbon footprint for 2023/24 was 64,825 tCO_2e. Figure 3 illustrates the 2023/24 carbon footprint broken down by scope.

Figure 3 - Net Zero Reporting 2023/24 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO2e)



Over the past five years, BCBC's emissions have fluctuated (see Figure 4), peaking in 2021/22, followed by a significant decline in 2022/23 and a subsequent increase in 2023/24. Overall, total emissions have decreased by 3.4% since 2019/20. Scope 3 emissions are the primary driver of change, while Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions show more limited variations.

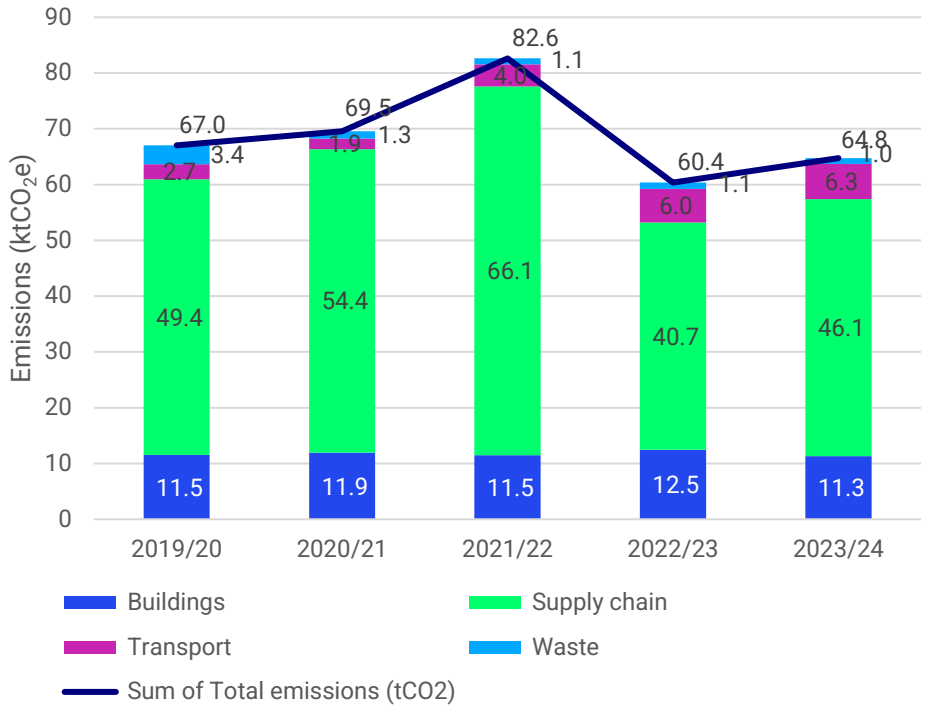
Figure 4 - Net Zero Reporting BCBC carbon footprint time series by scope (tCO_2e)



As shown in Figure 4, Scope 1 emissions have increased by 11.2% since 2019/20, rising from 6,146 tCO_2e to 6,835 tCO_2e, indicating a moderate increase in fuel consumption. Scope 2 emissions have decreased by 33.9%, from 5,405 tCO_2e to 3,573 tCO_2e, likely due to a combination of energy efficiency improvements, increased on-site renewable energy generation, and a reduction in the carbon intensity of grid electricity. Scope 3 emissions have marginally reduced by 1.9%, from 55,459 tCO_2e to 54,417 tCO_2e.

Figure 5 below presents the emissions breakdown by category rather than by scope, highlighting key sources such as buildings, the supply chain, transport, and waste.

Figure 5 – Net Zero Reporting BCBC carbon footprint time series by emissions category



Supply chain is the largest emission category. In 2023/24, supply chain emissions were 71% of the total footprint at 46,106 tCO_2e, a 7% decrease from 49,427 tCO_2e in 2020/21. Supply chain emissions were also the main factor behind the peak in 2021/22, reaching 66,135 tCO_2e, highlighting the significant impact of procurement activities, calculated using spend-based proxies, on overall emissions trends. This underlines the continued need for decarbonisation efforts in supplier engagement.

Building emissions have remained relatively stable at around 17% of the total footprint, with 11,284 tCO_2e recorded in 2023/24. However, this masks a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption over the past year. In 2024, fossil fuel use fell by 21%, from 38.6 million kWh to 30.5 million kWh, while electricity consumption increased by 11%, from 12.1 million kWh to 13.5 million kWh.

Transport emissions have increased, rising from 4% of the total (2,677 tCO_2e) in 2020/21 to 10% (6,344 tCO_2e) in 2023/24. This increase is primarily due to the inclusion of commuting and homeworking emissions from 2023 onwards, as well as greater vehicle use following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Waste emissions remain low and stable, contributing just 2% of total emissions, at 1,024 tCO_2e in 2023/24.

The overall emissions trend indicates some progress, but supply chain emissions continue to be the most significant challenge in reaching BCBC's 2030 Net Zero target. While further action in procurement policies, fleet decarbonisation, and building efficiency measures will be essential to drive future reductions, some progress will also depend on external factors beyond BCBC's direct control, such as the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid and private sector decarbonisation.

2. 2030 NET ZERO STRATEGY PROGRESS REVIEW

This chapter evaluates BCBC's progress in implementing its 2030 Net Zero Strategy, assessing actions taken across the six main activity streams. Each activity stream is currently led by a designated Carbon Lead, who is responsible for driving implementation and monitoring progress. The review assesses project progress since 2021 and outlines developments, plans, successes and challenges.

Each sub-section of this chapter focuses on one of the activity streams and presents a table outlining the actions originally identified in the Strategy. The Carbon Trust has included additional columns to provide a commentary on progress, a progress score ranking from 1 (minimal progress) to 5 (sector-leading progress) (see Appendix B for more detail on the scoring system), and a recommendation on the status of each action. Actions are categorised as: Remove, Retain, Revise or New (introduce new initiative). See Appendix E for a list of updated initiatives.

2.1 CARBON MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Table 2 outlines the initiatives identified in the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, adopted in December 2022, that the Council is undertaking to implement carbon management across the organisation.

Table 2 - Carbon management initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
CM1	The Council will appoint a technical expert in 2022 to undertake a more specific 'bottom-up' reduction pathway, providing more detailed carbon and financial modelling results for the agreed Action Plans in the 2030 Strategy.	2	Remove	Funding for this was part of an unsuccessful bid. This Strategy review provides updated pathway modelling for carbon and finances. This initiative can be removed from the revised Strategy.
CM2	Carbon impact and implications to be included in all Council business cases for investment, integrated with the Wellbeing of Future Generations assessment.	2	Revise	All Council reports include a 'Climate Change Implications' statement. However, these are not reviewed or tracked, and more comprehensive tools could be implemented (see Cornwall Council's doughnut economics). Furthermore, carbon costs should be integrated into decision-making processes.
CM3	The decarbonisation agenda will be proactively communicated to staff to support the uptake of low-carbon behaviours.	2	Revise	No engagement plan. We recommend that engagement initiatives strategically link to targets, e.g. upskilling building managers to improve building energy use, educating building managers about the waste hierarchy and educating Directorates and service areas about sustainable procurement practices.

CM4	Carbon Literacy training will have been completed by the end of the 2022/23 financial year and the training will be integrated into standard HR processes, such as e-learning modules.	3	Revise	Carbon literacy training has been undertaken by 12 elected members and 34 officers. Climate change e-learning is now mandatory for all staff.
CM5	All council job descriptions will be updated to include the general carbon responsibilities of employees and selected key council job descriptions will include defined carbon responsibilities as part of their role within the Council.	1	Revise	No progress. The process is more time-intensive than anticipated, with the need to consult Unions. We recommend prioritising selected key job descriptions, including defined carbon responsibilities, particularly for Carbon Lead/CoP members.
CM6	Through its participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme, BCBC acknowledges that climate change and carbon emission management is one of the risk factors of responsible investment and will support and actively monitor the delivery of the Fund's commitment to an orderly carbon transition and its active engagement with investee companies to reduce carbon exposure across the Pension Fund.	1	Remove	No progress. In alignment with the WGES Net Zero Reporting guidance, this action does not directly contribute to the Council's operational emissions calculation. Following client feedback and in order to streamline the list of actions, it has been removed. However, continued engagement with the Pension Fund remains good practice in the context of broader climate leadership and responsible investment.
CM7	Utilise the Welsh Government Public Sector Carbon Reporting Guide to report annually the Carbon Footprints of Council's operations, this will form the basis for tracking progress against the Net Zero 2030 target.	4	Retain	BCBC reports a complete emissions inventory to the Net Zero Reporting scheme. Using the results to improve widespread understanding of the Council's emissions and how they relate to different service areas is key to cross-council ownership of the agenda. Next steps should focus on providing building-level data and moving to Tier 2 supply chain reporting. These actions will sit in the Estates and Procurement activity streams.

2.2 BUILDINGS INITIATIVES

Table 3 outlines the initiatives identified to reduce the emissions associated with the operation of buildings*.

Table 3 - Buildings initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
B1	The Council will progress a transformational energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across its estate – every building will have undergone a multi-technology energy efficiency upgrade by 2030.	3	Retain	Ongoing. Completed work with Re:Fit and currently have two buildings with Low Carbon Heat funding. While a centrally held asset register is being created, there is currently no consolidated monitoring of progress. Finishing the register should be a priority. Also, this initiative would benefit from being broken down into interim/shorter-term targets.

B2	The Council will undertake and commission surveys to collate a full asset and conditions list of energy consuming equipment across its built estate by end of 2023.	2	Review	Ongoing. As above (B1) on register and interim targets. Noted that AECOM is pulling together a report for all Schools in Wales. This will be even more important with updates to the Net Zero Reporting guidance, asking public sector bodies to provide floor area data alongside energy use. Revise the completion year for this initiative.
B3	The Council will complete expert low carbon heat studies for all large strategic sites to set the plan to transition away from fossil fuel heat sources.	2	Retain	Ongoing. As above (B1) on register and interim targets. Council needs to consider creating a list of shovel-ready projects to access grant funding when it become available.
B4	Decommissioning of traditional boilers will be preferred over replacement, with low carbon heat solutions appraised and prioritised within the business case process.	2	Retain	Ongoing. As above (B1) on register and interim targets.
B5	Legacy lighting will only be replaced with modern LED alternatives; all lighting will be LED by 2030.	3	Retain	Ongoing replacement programme delivered through Re:Fit and funded from the Decarbonisation capital budget, with over 17 sites covered to date. As above (B1) on register and interim targets.
B6	All buildings will be assessed to have standardised, effective building management systems (BMS) including a dedicated central resource to optimise energy use across the built estate on a consistent basis.	3	Retain	Roughly 60 out of 120 buildings have BMS. Low cost of installing BMS makes it a high-priority action. As above (B1) on register and interim targets.
B7	The Council will complete surveys to understand the overall viable potential for onsite renewable energy generation across the estate. By 2026 half of this potential should be installed, with the remainder by 2030.	3	Revise	Nine sites have been identified for solar PV installation with funding allocated from the Decarbonisation capital budget. As above (B1) on register and interim targets. Target date needs revision.
B8	The Council will work closely with schools to develop a plan to better deliver carbon reduction in these buildings.	3	Retain	AECOM report currently underway.

*Actions related to new buildings are all considered to be ongoing and should be retained in the new Strategy.

2.3 TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

Table 4 outlines the initiatives identified to reduce the emissions associated with transport, including from fleet, business travel and commuting.

Table 4 - Transport initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
T1	The Council will complete a business travel review to appraise the use of staff vehicles, pool cars and public transport across all departments; Council business travel policies will be updated accordingly.	1	Retain	No progress. Management is shared across departments. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP) (see Section 3: Governance and Delivery Assessment).
T2	The Council's staff business travel policy will prioritise the use of virtual meetings, active travel and public transport.	1	Retain	As above (T1).
T3	The Council will undertake a detailed review of staff commuting patterns to better understand the impact on its overall carbon footprint; guidance and incentive schemes will be considered to support staff.	1	Retain	As above (T1). Prioritise undertaking a staff commuting survey to calculate emissions. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP). The Carbon Trust can provide support for the staff commuting survey.
T4	The Council will support the Welsh Government's 30% work from home target by continuing to facilitate home working, developing digital infrastructure, and rationalising office space.	2	Review	Progress not tracked, though it is considered that a large proportion of officers do work from home, facilitated by IT equipment and infrastructure, revised desk allocations and disposal of office buildings. Management is shared across departments. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change CoP. Noted that some services require more in-person work (social care, education, highways maintenance) – there can't be a 30% target for every service area.
T5	The Council will oversee the development of a best practice approach for ULEV technology across the Council's own fleet, staff vehicles and public EV charging.	2	Revise	Some progress. We recommend that the Council seek support from WGES on ULEV and EV transition planning and implementation. Remove mention of public EV charging as not relevant to the Strategy.
T6	To encourage the transition to an EV fleet the Council will prioritise the development of an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate.	2	Retain	Management is split across multiple departments. Progress has been made in the Highways team with over 60 charge points installed and more in progress (though coming up against barriers).
T7	EVs will be prioritised as replacements for Council owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2025.	1	Revise	No progress. Revise target date.
T8	All new medium/large freight vehicles procured across the Council after April 2026 will be to the future modern standard of ULEVs.	1	Revise	Some testing of large freight EVs as they come onto the market, but it is very dependent on load and cost. The target date needs to be updated.
T9	The Council will actively engage with innovation projects to help shape the future landscape of the ULEV market, specifically hydrogen-powered vehicles.	2	Remove	Some activities are ongoing. No available data. Remove as not directly relevant to this strategy and to support streamlining of the action list.

T10	The Council will undertake a review of fuel used in small plant and equipment to understand their carbon footprint and what assets can be replaced with electric versions.	2	Retain	Electric equipment is being used, but a review has not been completed. Lack of a register for management of progress. Retain and make it a priority to register and track equipment.
T11	The Council will pro-actively engage with other public bodies within the County to ensure strategic travel plans do not counteract each other.	1	Remove	No longer sits with Highways and is more related to area-wide emissions than organisational emissions.

2.4 LAND USE INITIATIVES

Table 5 outlines the initiatives identified to promote sustainable land use on its land: to generate renewable energy, carbon sequestration and create spaces to encourage biodiversity. All retained and revised actions should be moved to the proposed Estates activity stream.

Table 5 - Land use initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
L1	The Council will support the delivery of Local Development Plan (LDP) identified renewables and offsetting opportunities on its own land and neighbouring land, and also influence and support broader county-wide schemes through the council's role in planning.	3	Remove	Carbon Trust completed a Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Assessment (REA) for Bridgend in 2019, which formed part of the Evidence Base for their Replacement LDP (RLDP). The RLDP was adopted in 2024 and included many of the policy recommendations provided in the REA. As the scope of the RLDP is county-wide rather than purely BCBC organisational emissions, we recommend removing this initiative.
L2	The Council will improve its understanding of all owned land assets to correctly appreciate the levels of carbon sequestration by March 2023 and develop plans to maximise carbon benefits in these areas.	3	Revise	WGES completed a land asset review in 2021, which reviewed the potential for renewable energy developments on a number of parcels of BCBC-owned land. The review identified three priority group sites (A, B, and C) and removed seven sites from the assessment altogether due to their lack of suitability for development. We recommend that the next steps for the priority A, B, and C sites be revisited. If the decision is made not to progress with any of these sites for renewable energy deployment, they should be considered, alongside the sites removed from the assessment and any other additional parcels of land owned by BCBC, for carbon sequestration potential. The Carbon Trust can provide support with this.
L3	The Council will ensure all owned woodland and greenfield areas are maintained in a way to promote enhanced biodiversity and avoid any unnecessary loss of carbon sequestration.	2	Retain	Noted that the Council manages five local nature reserves with efforts to promote biodiversity at these sites. The initiative would be improved with monitoring and interim targets.

L4	The Council will identify its own and neighbouring land for large-scale renewable developments, primarily solar and wind projects. Private wire connections to owned sites will be prioritised over exporting directly to the grid.	3	Remove	In 2021, WGES completed a review of ground-mounted solar sites, of which the highest priority one at the Bryncethin Claypits site will be leased to CCR for 5MW PV to power the Hybont project via private wire. No other sites are close enough to BCBC assets to private wire, and there is no benefit to emissions reporting to develop grid-connected projects. Noted that most large-scale land ownership is reserved to fund capital programmes like school development. Remove as there are no more eligible sites.
L5	Where large-scale renewable developments are not possible, the Council will prioritise these areas for afforestation/reforestation and biodiversity programmes on its own land.	2	Retain	The Council has undertaken several tree planting projects (e.g. Ogmore Valley community woodland, Sker Farm and Aber Fields). However, it is not clear how land use designations are prioritised.
L6	The Council will undertake an assessment to understand the extent of peatland across its estate; a continual maintenance and regeneration programme will be put in place for any identified areas.	1	Retain	No formal assessment was undertaken, but it was noted that officers believe there is no peatland on the estate. We recommend undertaking a formal assessment as part of L2.
L7	The Council will identify the additional maintenance resource needed to help kick start a more extensive green infrastructure programme across the county.	1	Remove	Noted that this is less relevant to making the Council's operational Net Zero.
L8	Work with partners to map and review Council-owned land to identify categories that align with the Net Zero Reporting commitment	-	New	Potential to use the WLGA/DataMapWales Land and Carbon Sequestration Mapping tool.

2.5 PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES

Table 6 outlines the initiatives identified to reduce the emissions associated with procurement. It was noted in the Carbon Lead interview that there has been no progress on any of the procurement actions to date due to a lack of resource.

Table 6 - Procurement initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
P1	The Council will develop a Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice to include a framework for assessing the sustainability credentials of suppliers at varying contract values and types; this will consider the evolving Welsh Procurement Policy Notes (WPPN).	2	Retain	There is a requirement to include a social value question in all tenders (at least 10% weighting), and commissioning officers must consult with the Decarbonisation and Climate Change teams to inform this.

P2	The Council will aim to engage with and utilise the local and low carbon supply chains whilst maintaining high standards for goods and services. This will be a corporate initiative and not just the responsibility of the procurement team.	1	Retain	No progress.
P3	The Council will build upon WPPN 06/21 and require carbon management plans/decarbonisation improvement to be demonstrated in the highest carbon impact and strategic contracts by 2025, this will include contracts as they come to be procured associated with 'Transit & Ground Passenger Transport Services' and 'Nursing & Residential Care Services'.	3	Revise	A carbon reduction plan is required at a contract value of £1m. Continue to review the requirements of carbon reduction plans from suppliers and note forthcoming learnings from the WGES Net Zero Reporting supplier data collection template pilot.
P4	The Council will apply the principles of 'WPPN 12/21 Decarbonisation through Procurement', to an increasing proportion of contracts such that by 2030, all contracts above an agreed value are subject to carbon assessment and reporting.	2	Retain	As above.
P5	The Council will work to ensure decarbonisation selection criteria and the requirement for supplier carbon reduction plans (CRP) is integrated into contract procedure rules for contracts valued at £5 million or more (as per WPPN 06/21) for contracts procured from 2025. This will be a corporate initiative and will involve the development of a work plan which will be presented to Cabinet and Council to amend the Contract Procedure Rules.	4	Remove	Remove as complete. For contracts of £50k and above, BCBC requires policies to show the bidder's approach to waste reduction and greenhouse gas emissions management. The social value question will seek to establish how environmental impacts will be minimised throughout the contract delivery.
P6	The Council, through its Economic Development function, will engage with its supply chain to communicate its ambition for Net Zero and the request for suppliers to come on the journey; the Council will share its developing procurement practice, resources for suppliers, and any opportunities for supply chain decarbonisation funding.	1	Retain	No progress.
P7	The Council will provide a training programme for internal service commissioners by developing best practice and engaging experts; the Council procurement and service commissioners will work in collaboration to champion decarbonisation in the supply chain. This will be resourced through the Climate Change Response Programme.	3	Revise	The Corporate Procurement Manager has delivered training on this. Training opportunities should be reviewed. Revise reference to the Climate Change Response Programme.
P8	Contract management will be used to oversee decarbonisation progress and carbon accounting in both short- and long-term contracts, this will be overseen by the BCBC 2030 Programme Board and reported to Corporate Management Board (CMB) as required.	1	Retain	No progress.
P9	A task and finish group will be established to identify funding option to secure a dedicated resource will be put in place to support development of the Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice, Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy, and ongoing management of decarbonisation through procurement.	1	Remove	Responsibility for the allocation of this funding sits within Senior Leadership, not just the Procurement Lead.
P10	The Council recognises the need for a regional and national approach and will identify other organisations and forums, e.g. National Themes, Outcomes and Measures	1	Retain	We recommend attending the WLGA Procurement Task and Finish Group.

	(TOMS) Wales, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), for collaboration across Wales to help develop its understanding and take note from best practice approaches.			
P11	Prioritise enabling a move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 supply chain emissions reporting. Engage with work being done by the Welsh Government Energy Service to develop a supplier contract emissions reporting tool.	-	New	This action depends on senior leadership providing procurement with additional resource, as we recommend in Section 2: Governance and Delivery Assessment.

2.6 WASTE INITIATIVES

Table 7 outlines the initiatives identified to reduce the emissions associated with the waste that the Council produces and collects. Though the Council has made significant progress on municipal waste, this review concerns how organisational waste actions have progressed. In discussion with Council officers, it has been agreed that national legislation will be the main driver of change on this issue.

Table 7 - Waste initiatives progress review

Ref.	Description	Progress Score	Status	Carbon Trust Comments
W1	The council will build on its performance in regard to reducing waste sent to landfills and recycling in line with the Welsh Government Towards Zero Waste Strategy.	2	Retain	Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP).
W2	All waste streams will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the most sustainable method of disposal is being undertaken, the waste hierarchy will be used as a template for action.	2	Retain	Noted that this is already a legislative requirement. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP).
W3	Undertake a more joined up approach across the council on waste data collection to ensure all waste streams are being identified.	2	Retain	Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP).
W4	The council will work with the schools to implement further food waste initiatives to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.	4	Remove	Superseded by the Workplace Recycling regulations.
W5	The council will develop a plan to agree on future step changes to continue working to achieve the outcomes set out by Welsh Governments: Towards zero waste: our waste Strategy.	3	Remove	Currently mid-commission. Noted that the Welsh Government have not set specific waste targets beyond 2024 for councils to work to, complicating future mapping. Not relevant to Council Waste.
W6	The council will review best practice advice and develop a plan to support highways and capital projects on hard to decarbonise waste streams such as cement, concrete and Asphalt.	1	Remove	No progress. This has been removed to streamline the initiatives but it should be picked up at a later date.

W7	The council will increase the availability of battery-powered equipment and tools in its supply chain to reduce disposal and replacement cycles.	2	Remove	Ongoing. Noted that there is no overall monitoring of equipment (as with T10). Removed for the same reason as given above.
W8	The council will prioritise the purchase of reused and remanufactured products that have recycled content, this will be embedded into best practices for service commissioners.	1	Retain	No progress. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change Community of Practice (CoP).
W9	The council will continue to engage with key stakeholders and work with our communities to encourage the reduction of waste, reuse and recycling.	1	Remove	Engagement is ongoing. Noted that this is more relevant to the Borough's Net Zero target and is less relevant to making the Council's operations Net Zero. Retain but move to the proposed Behaviour Change CoP.

3. GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY ASSESSMENT

3.1 CURRENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

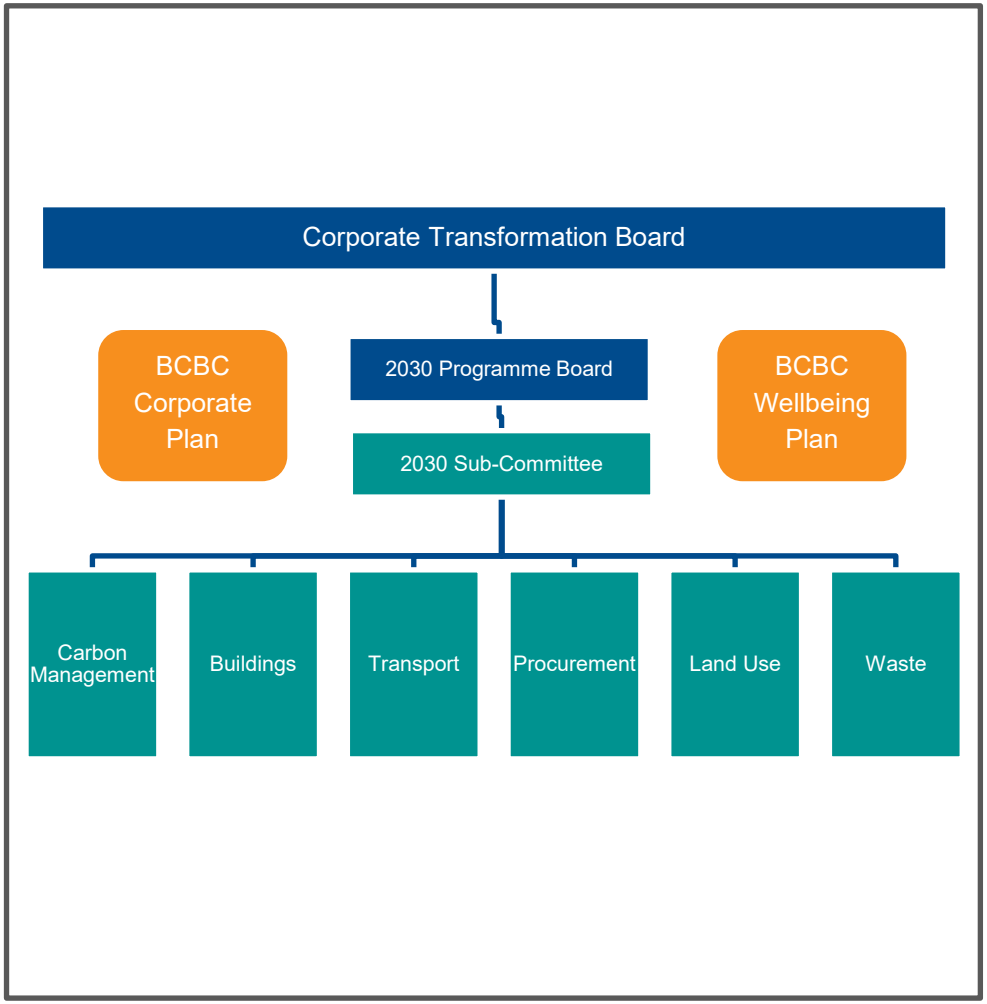
The 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy maintained the Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board to oversee and track progress, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and led by the Corporate Director of Communities. The Decarbonisation Programme Manager organises Strategy delivery.

To embed delivery across the Council, the Strategy set out a structure whereby each of the six activity streams – carbon management, buildings, transport, land use, waste and procurement – would be assigned a 'Carbon Lead'. Each stream has an associated action plan that is the Carbon Lead's responsibility.

The Strategy also envisioned a 2030 Steering Group, chaired by the Decarbonisation Programme Manager, where Carbon Leads could meet regularly and collaborate across the decarbonisation programme.

The current Carbon Lead appointments are:

- Carbon Management – Group Manager, Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability
- Buildings – Group Manager, Corporate Landlord
- Transport – Group Manager, Highways & Green Spaces
- Waste – Head of Operations, Community Services
- Procurement – Corporate Procurement Manager
- Land Use – Climate Change Response Manager



3.2 CARBON LEAD ENGAGEMENT CONCLUSIONS

The Strategy's governance arrangements, established to oversee and deliver Bridgend's Net Zero ambition, have been identified as a key area for review. The Carbon Trust undertook half-hour interviews with all six Carbon Leads to evaluate the governance arrangements and/or adjust objectives for the Carbon Leads and implementation-focussed staff. The interviews generated the following conclusions:

1. SENIOR CARBON LEADS HAVE COMPETING PRIORITIES

All the Carbon Leads acknowledged that they have too many competing priorities to drive delivery. This was stressed particularly for the Waste, Carbon Management and Transport Carbon Leads. For Procurement, though the Lead is the most appropriate officer for the position, they lack the necessary staff resource to drive delivery.

2. SOME STREAMS CUT ACROSS MULTIPLE SERVICE AREAS

Two of the Carbon Lead activity streams – Transport and Carbon Management – cut across multiple service areas. For example, Transport cuts across Human Resources (e.g. initiatives T1, T2, T3, T4) and Social Care/ Education (T5, T6, T7). Having one Carbon Lead across service areas is proving ineffective. Conversely, in streams with management across one service area, such as Buildings, the individual Carbon Lead role works well.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS ARE THE MAIN DELIVERY DRIVER FOR SOME STREAMS

In the Waste and Land Use activity streams, it was noted that the primary delivery driver is not the Strategy but other legislative requirements. Waste actions are driven primarily by the Workplace Recycling regulations, adopted in April 2024 and Bridgend's Local Development Plan 2018-2033, adopted in March 2024, is the main driver of land use activity.

4. THE PROGRAMME BOARD AGENDA HAS BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM THE STRATEGY

Some interviewees discussed the role of the Programme Board. One noted that as the Carbon Lead structure has failed to deliver, the Board agenda has been less connected to the Strategy actions. Another echoed this point and noted that there is a lack of clarity on how the work of the Carbon Leads feeds into the bigger picture and connects to the Strategy. Progress linked to the Strategy is no longer routinely reviewed and benchmarked.

5. DIFFICULTY EMBEDDING THE STRATEGY WITHIN THE COUNCIL

The Carbon Management action plan contains several actions relating to staff communication and engagement, job descriptions and training for council officers and/or councillors, in order to embed the Strategy within the Council. Collaboration with Human Resources has been difficult and there have been unforeseen complexities, for example, the need to consult with the Unions to include carbon reduction in staff job descriptions.

Furthermore, opportunities to promote ownership of the decarbonisation agenda amongst the wider elected membership could be more fully explored.

3.3 MOBILISATION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the conclusion of the Carbon Lead interviews, review of the previous Strategy and discussions with the Decarbonisation Programme Manager, we recommend that, instead of having six individuals responsible for each activity stream, for some areas responsibility is spread across a 'Community of Practice' (CoP), a group with representatives across different, relevant service areas. Table 8 below summarises the key principles for each approach.

We recommend that the Waste activity stream does not have a dedicated Lead or Community of Practice because Council waste management will be driven by national legislation. Some Council waste actions, particularly concerning behaviour change and procurement, have been redistributed to those relevant CoPs.

Table 8 – Principles for Mobilising and Managing Activity Streams: Carbon Leads vs Communities of Practice

Carbon Lead Principles	Community of Practice Principles
• Relevant for activity streams that sit within a single service area, e.g. Estates. • The Lead integrates the delivery of the activity stream into pre-existing service area groups/meetings. • Targets and actions must be integrated into the Directorate business plans as part of a BAU workstream. • The Lead project manages the delivery of the targets for the activity stream and reports to the Decarbonisation Programme Manager and the Decarbonisation Programme Board.	• Relevant for activity streams that cut across multiple service areas, e.g. Behaviour change, Procurement and Fleet. • Constitutes a formal group with Terms of Reference, a Chair and a rolling agenda. CoPs should meet every six weeks, the week before the Programme Board. • Members must have the capacity to deliver actions. • The Chair project manages the delivery of the targets for the activity stream and reports to the Decarbonisation Board.

The following sections provide an overview of each activity stream, outlining its scope, membership, and key objectives.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Recommendation: replace the Carbon Management Carbon Lead and Waste Carbon Lead with a Behaviour Change Community of Practice.

This recommendation reflects feedback that officer engagement needs to be prioritised to meet key targets in the Strategy.

Aim: to reduce Council emissions by influencing behaviour change amongst officers.

Objective: to coordinate the delivery and monitoring of actions in the Behaviour Change action plan, with particular focus on:

- Improving the integration of sustainability considerations into Council decision-making.
- Advancing officer engagement and training on climate change in a way that is aligned with the Strategy targets.
- Tracking and improving behaviours that affect sustainability across the council in areas such as commuting, homeworking, Council office waste and procurement.

FLEET COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Recommendation: replace the Transport Carbon Lead with a Fleet Community of Practice.

This recommendation reflects feedback that management of the Council's fleet is fractured across multiple service areas, making it difficult for one officer to coordinate the level of collaborative action required.

Aim: to reduce emissions from the Council's fleet.

Objective: to coordinate emissions reduction actions across service areas, prioritising Highways, Waste, Education and Social Care, focussing on:

- Developing a best practice approach for ultra-low emission vehicle (ULEV) technology across the Council's fleet, staff vehicles and public electric vehicle (EV) charging.
- Developing an EV charging infrastructure plan for the estate.
- Prioritise EVs as replacements for Council-owned fleet vehicles.

PROCUREMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Recommendation: replace the Procurement Carbon Lead with a Procurement Community of Practice.

This recommendation reflects feedback from the Programme Board presentation that it would help the procurement team to be able to feed into Directorate procurement exercises at an earlier stage.

Recommendation: commit extra resource to the procurement team. With supply chain emissions accounting for 71% of the Council's footprint, this is a priority topic for Council decarbonisation.

Aim: to reduce emissions from the Council's supply chain.

Objectives: to coordinate a more sustainable approach to Directorate procurement exercises and improve the Council's supply chain emissions reporting.

ESTATE CARBON LEAD

Recommendation: replace the Buildings Carbon Lead and Land Use Carbon Lead with a single Estates Carbon Lead. We also recommend integrating the actions into the wider Corporate Landlord Directorate business plan. The Lead will project manage delivery using pre-existing meetings within the Corporate Landlord service area.

This recommendation reflects feedback that the work required for Buildings and Land Use sits centrally within the Corporate Landlord service

area. Combining the previous activity streams into one reflects this and minimises the need for additional time and resource.

Aim: to reduce emissions from the Council's estate.

Objective: to coordinate emission reduction actions within the Corporate Landlord service area, with a particular focus on:

- Managing the ongoing energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across the estate, collating a full asset and condition list of energy-consuming equipment.
- Delivering renewable energy and offsetting opportunities on Council-owned and neighbouring land.

PROGRAMME BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

Recommendation: streamline the Programme Board membership to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment (Chair), CoP chairs, Leads, Decarbonisation Programme Team, representatives from Finance, Legal, and HR.

Recommendation: revise the Programme Board Terms of Reference to focus only on the Strategy delivery and not the wider Climate Change Response activities, in order to streamline the Programme Board's remit. Responsibility for wider activities should be absorbed elsewhere.

Recommendation: the Council uses its established project management approach. Appendix D provides additional example tools and templates that can be used to track key actions, monitor progress, and support effective coordination across teams.

Aim: streamline board membership and remit to enable officers to prioritise delivery against agreed actions.

4. EMISSIONS PROJECTIONS MODELLING, COST ANALYSIS, AND OFFSETTING APPRAISAL

This chapter presents the updated emissions projections and cost modelling for the recommended decarbonisation actions. It assesses Bridgend Council's progress toward its 2030 Net Zero target, quantifies the emissions reduction potential of proposed initiatives, and estimates associated costs. The analysis also considers the remaining 'gap to target' and introduces offsetting requirements to close this gap.

4.1 EMISSIONS PROJECTIONS MODELLING

In collaboration with the Carbon Trust, the Council has established a baseline for its total carbon emissions in 2019/20, estimated at 67,011 tCO_2e. This figure is based on actual data where available; however, some elements, such as carbon sequestration from natural assets on Council-owned land, could not be quantified at this stage.

It is recognised that fully eliminating carbon emissions from Council operations is unlikely to be feasible – a challenge common to all Local Authorities in Wales. The Council must therefore prioritise emissions reduction as far as possible before relying on offsetting measures to achieve Net Zero.

The emissions remaining after all feasible reductions are referred to as the "Gap to Target." This represents the volume of residual emissions that would need to be offset in order to achieve Net Zero by 2030. Based on the emissions modelling carried out for BCBC, the gap is projected to be 54,656 tCO_2e under a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Under the Initiatives scenario – where the Council implements the proposed emissions reduction measures the gap is reduced to 36,996 tCO_2e. This is illustrated in Figure 6, which shows the total emissions projections for the Council from 2019/20 to 2029/30.

The Business as Usual (BAU) scenario models the Council's projected emissions in 2030, assuming no significant changes in operational activity compared to the baseline year.

It incorporates anticipated external decarbonisation trends, such as reductions in emissions from the national electricity grid and supply chains, but assumes that the Council's internal activity levels (e.g. energy use, travel, and procurement) remain consistent with current patterns.

- The Initiatives scenario builds on the BAU projection by modelling the combined impact of external decarbonisation and the implementation of the actions outlined earlier in this report. These actions include measures to reduce energy demand, switch to lower-carbon fuels, and improve efficiency across buildings, fleet, and procurement activities.

The calculation spreadsheets have been handed over to the project team to support further review and consultation.

Figures 7, 8, and 9 break down the total emissions projections shown in Figure 6, outlining decarbonisation pathways for supply chain, buildings, fleet, business travel, commuting and homeworking emissions, respectively. These provide a more detailed view of the modelling undertaken as part of this Strategy. The Council recognises that additional, more granular 'bottom-up' modelling will be required as it continues its journey toward Net Zero by 2030.

Figure 6 – BCBC total emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

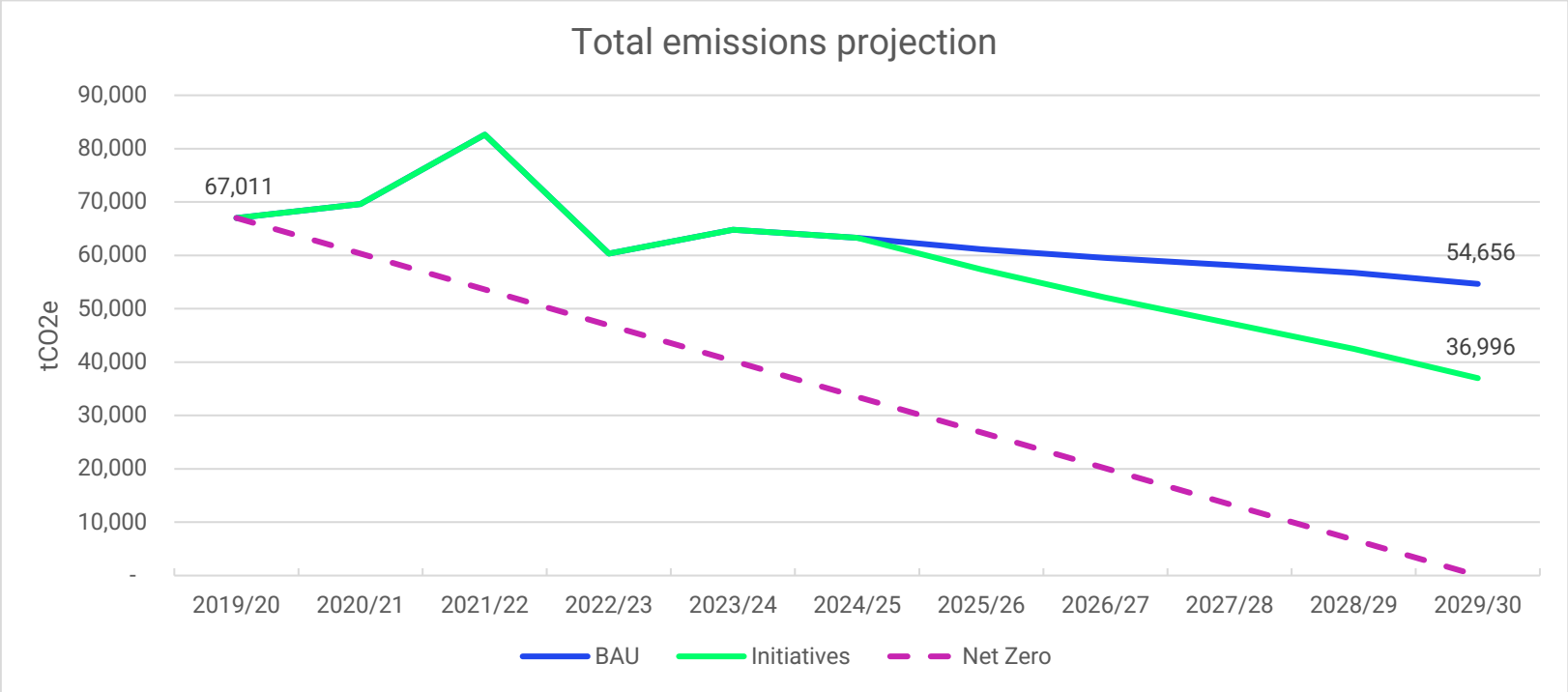


Figure 7 – BCBC buildings emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

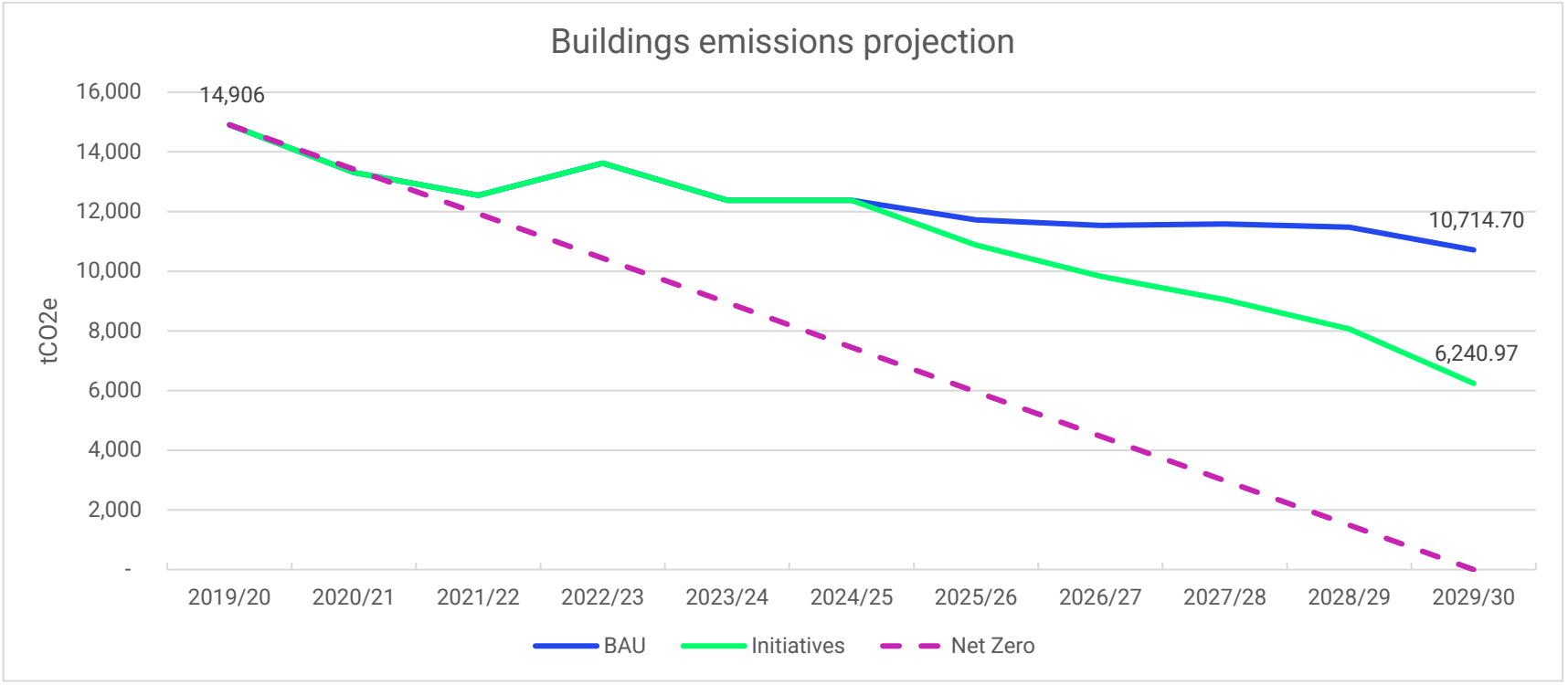


Figure 8 – BCBC Procurement emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

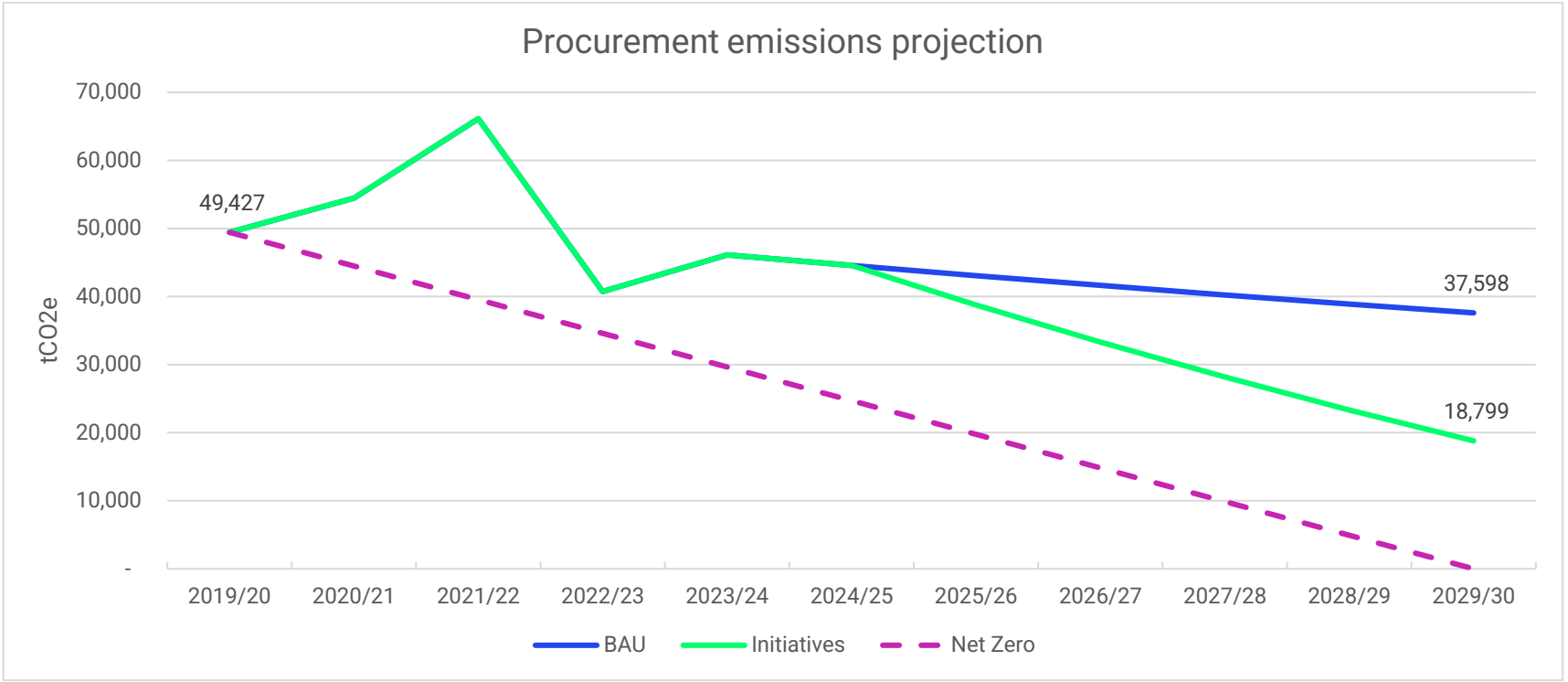
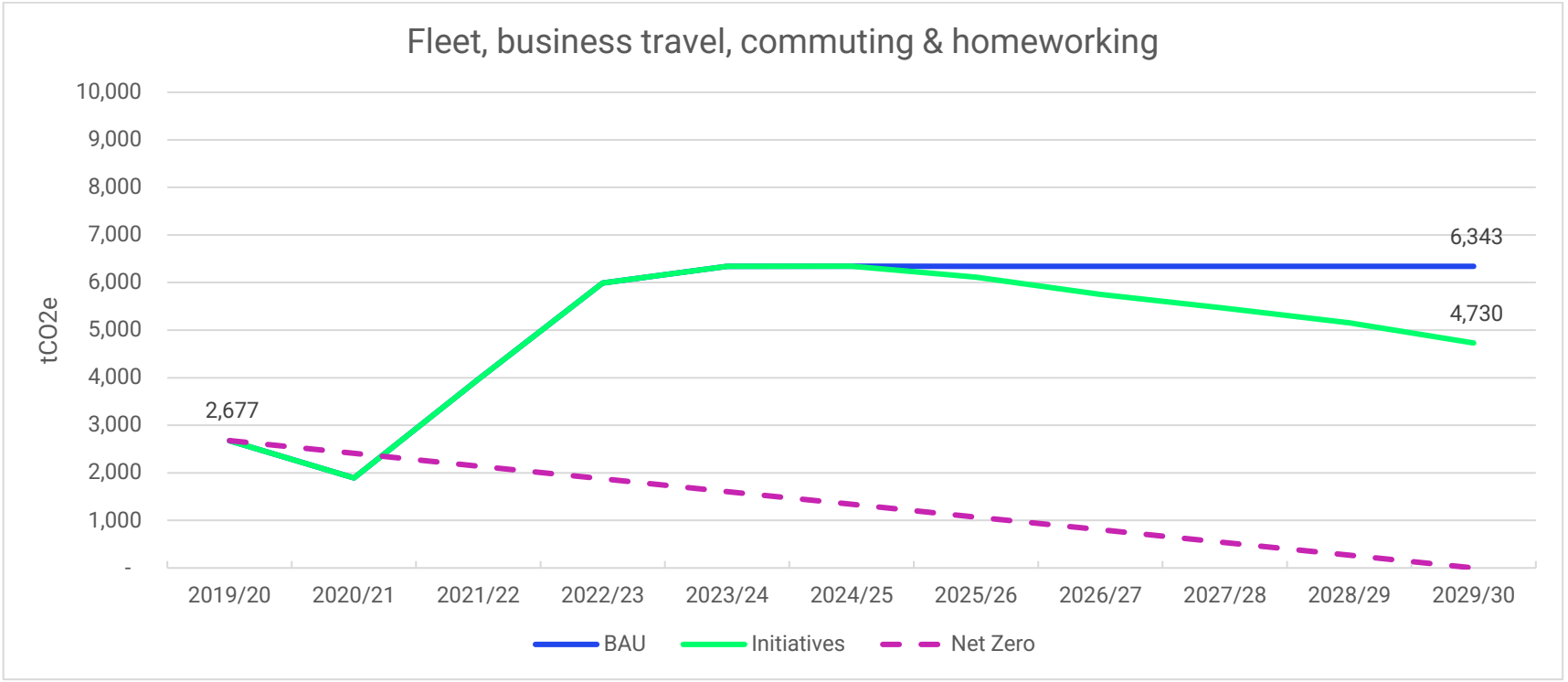


Figure 9 – BCBC -Fleet, Business Travel, Commuting & Homeworking emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios



4.2 COST ANALYSIS

As part of this analysis, the Carbon Trust carried out a cost modelling exercise to estimate the investment required to implement the proposed decarbonisation measures. The total cost of delivering all initiatives has been estimated at approximately £109,650,000.

This estimate is based on the Carbon Trust and Welsh Government Energy Service's (WGES) best understanding of current market conditions and available technologies. However, as the projections span several years, actual costs may fluctuate significantly depending on future policy developments, inflation, supply chain dynamics, and wider market uncertainties.

Cost estimates have been developed and refined in consultation with the project team. It is important to note that this is not a differential cost analysis – it does not compare the cost of implementing low-carbon technologies against like-for-like replacements. A significant portion of the estimated cost (~80%) relates to assets such as heating systems and vehicles that would require replacement regardless. Total like-for-like replacement costs for these items amount to an estimate of £39-48 million, roughly 35-44% of the total £109.65 million. The figures presented here therefore reflect the estimated investment required to implement the low-carbon measures, rather than the net additional cost compared to business-as-usual replacements.

cost modelling exercise to estimate the investment required to implement the proposed decarbonisation measures. The total cost of delivering all initiatives has been estimated at approximately £109,650,000.

While the total estimated cost of £109.65 million may appear significant, it should be considered in the context of long-term asset renewal, opportunities for external funding, and the Council's strategic commitment to achieving Net Zero. These investments are expected to be phased over time and aligned with existing capital and operational programmes.

Additionally, this is not a whole-life cost analysis. For example, replacing diesel vehicles with electric alternatives may result in different long-term operational costs, which are not reflected in this estimate.

The £109.65 million figure also does not represent capital costs alone. Some elements could be funded through external grants or integrated within ongoing Council budgets.

Please see Appendix F for a detailed breakdown of cost assumptions and methodology.

4.3 OFFSETTING APPRAISAL

Currently, there is no defined approach to the creation or purchase of verified carbon credits by Welsh public sector bodies in the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting guidance. This is to encourage the prioritisation of mitigation efforts and minimise the need for offsets. Welsh public sector bodies can currently submit emissions data from land use and agriculture, which are reported separately to the total footprint as 'Out of Scope' emissions. This is in keeping with guidance under the GHG Protocol.

The question of how Welsh public sector bodies approach offsetting will be addressed in the pending review of the 2030 Net Zero ambition, noted in Section 1.1: Introduction.

The below appraisal intends to provide an overview of the voluntary carbon market and provide BCBC with estimated costs for offsetting in relation to their modelled gap to target.

OFFSETTING TECHNOLOGIES

Carbon offsetting is a broad term that refers to reducing GHG emissions or increasing carbon storage to compensate for emissions that occur elsewhere. This involves buying/supporting emission reduction or removal enhancement projects outside an organisation's GHG inventory boundary. There are four overall categorisations of offsetting outlined in Table 9.

Several technologies can claim carbon offsets, though technological readiness levels (TRL) and costs vary substantially. Established technologies, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and nature-based solutions, have dominated the voluntary offset market due to their commercial readiness and affordability.

However, concerns over the additionality of renewable energy projects and competing land uses for nature-based solutions are valid and require careful management. Newer removal technologies are emerging with high scale-up and offsetting potential. However, they are currently scarce, expensive and resource-intensive.

Furthermore, offsets must increasingly prioritise durable technologies. Biological storage methods, such as afforestation or habitat restoration, have a higher risk of storage reversal, as land use demands fluctuate with economic and political pressures. Geological storage methods, such as enhanced weathering, offer a low risk of storage reversal on millennial timescales.

Table 9 – Categories of carbon offsetting technologies

Nature-Based	**Avoided nature loss:** Limits the loss of nature, such as forests and peatlands, which currently sequester large amounts of carbon.	**Nature-based sequestration:** Uses nature to sequester more carbon in the biosphere, including reforestation/afforestation and restoring soil, seagrass and peatlands.
Technology-based	**'Additional' emissions avoidance/reduction:** Reduces emissions from current sources that don't have the financial incentive or regulatory requirements to decarbonise (e.g. renewable energy and energy efficiency).	**Technology-based removal:** Removes CO_2 from the atmosphere using technological methods and stores it in the geosphere or through other secure methods such as concrete (e.g. Construction using renewable timber)
	Avoidance/reduction	Removal/sequestration

Table 10 presents indicative cost ranges and technological maturity levels (TRLs) for several carbon offsetting solutions, drawing on data from global voluntary carbon markets. The cost of a carbon offset credit is influenced by several factors, including the quality and verification of the project, location and market dynamics. These values are not applicable as domestic implementation prices; instead, they represent the costs available on the global carbon markets.

Offset costs are typically calculated by dividing the total lifetime cost of a project by the total amount of CO_2 it is expected to avoid or remove. The cost element includes capital and operational costs, potential co-benefits or revenue streams (e.g. timber sales, energy savings), and sometimes financing assumptions.

Importantly, the lowest cost offset options, such as renewable energy and efficiency projects, are mature technologies with well-established benefits and limited barriers to implementation. Their low cost reflects both economies of scale and the fact that they are often already viable without carbon finance. However, this also raises concerns about additionality: these projects might have proceeded regardless of carbon market incentives. In contrast, engineered removals like DACCS or BECCS are at earlier stages of deployment, with higher costs reflecting the complexity and energy intensity of the technologies involved.

It is worth noting that while the cost of fully decarbonising an organisation's operations can be substantial, offsetting the same volume of emissions through the voluntary carbon market may initially appear significantly more affordable - particularly when using lower-cost options such as renewable energy or energy efficiency projects, which can offer credits at just a few pounds per tonne.

However, this apparent cost advantage should not be interpreted as a reason to *replace* internal decarbonisation with offsetting, for reasons already discussed around international costs and additionality concerns. Furthermore:

- Offsetting does not deliver the same long-term value or control as internal measures. Upgrades to energy systems, buildings, or operations can reduce long-term operating costs, improve resilience to energy price shocks, and enhance the organisation's reputation and regulatory alignment.
- Most importantly, a credible Net Zero strategy must prioritise cutting emissions at source wherever technically and financially feasible. Offsetting is a tool to address the "residual" emissions that cannot yet be eliminated, *not* a substitute for action.

While a sole offsetting approach might seem cheaper on a per-tonne basis, it fails to deliver the deeper benefits of direct decarbonisation and poses greater long-term risk, reputationally and operationally. It also underscores the importance of following the mitigation hierarchy: reduce emissions at source wherever feasible and use offsetting only for the hardest-to-abate residuals.

Table 10 – Carbon offsetting technologies appraisal

Technology	TRL	Storage longevity (years)	£/ tCO_2e	Gap to target (£)
Renewable energy	9	N/A	1 - 4	37k - 148k
Energy efficiency/ fuel switching	9	N/A	2 - 5	74k - 185k
Afforestation	8-9	10-100	2 - 25	74k - 850k
Enhanced weathering	1-5	10,000+	35 - 400	1.4M - 14M
Bioenergy with CCS (BECCS)	4-7	10,000+	75 - 250	2.8M - 8.5M
Wetland/peatland restoration	5-6	10-100	7 - 75	259k - 2.8M
Direct air CCS (DACCS)	5-7	10,000+	150 - 450	5.5M - 17M
Biochar	3-6	100-1,000	0 - 150	0 - 5.7M

TRL Source: Adaptation from The Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society greenhouse gas removal report, 2018
Costs Source: i) https://netzeroclimate.org/greenhouse-gas-removal/, ii) https://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/carbon-markets/em-data-dashboard

OFFSETTING STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS

Organisations should align with credible Net Zero standards and frameworks where available and applicable. Both the SBTi Net Zero corporate standard and the Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting outline comprehensive approaches to offsetting that are relevant to BCBC.

There are slight variations between these two standards. However, they are broadly aligned across three key areas, which set out how an organisation's offsetting Strategy should evolve to be considered Net Zero aligned.

1. Cut emissions and use high-quality offsets

Emission reductions should be prioritised to minimise reliance on offsets. Where offsets are used, they must be high quality, representing real, additional, and verifiable climate benefits. To ensure this, organisations should source credits from projects that are independently certified under recognised offset standards, such as the Gold Standard, Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), or Climate Action Reserve. These certification schemes apply robust methodologies and verification processes to assess project performance, permanence, and additionality.

Certification provides assurance that offsets are not only environmentally credible but also tracked and accounted for transparently. It helps prevent issues such as double counting and over-crediting. In addition, initiatives

such as the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) and the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) are emerging to support the broader integrity of carbon markets, offering guidance on how offsets can be credibly used as part of corporate climate strategies.

Aligning an offsetting portfolio with these standards strengthens transparency and trust.

2. **Shift to carbon removal offsetting**

To ensure compatibility with the Paris Agreement, offset users should increase the portion of offsets that come from carbon removals. By 2050, 100% of offsets should be sourced from emission removals.

3. **Shift to long-lived storage**

Transition to methods of carbon removal that have a low risk of reversal over centuries to millennia, for example, storing CO2 in geological reservoirs or mineralising carbon into stable forms.

OFFSETTING APPROACHES

There are two main approaches for BCBC to offset their residual emissions: within or beyond their sphere of influence. In the context of this report, sphere of influence could refer to the geographic area of Bridgend.

Offsetting within an organisation's sphere of influence is sometimes referred to as insetting, which can be categorised in the same way as offsets (i.e., emission avoidance or emission removal). Insetting is still a relatively recent concept for which there is no universal definition or standard, and definitions are expected to continue evolving as an agreed methodology to account for emission reductions/removal enhancements is developed.

Offsetting beyond an organisation's sphere of influence can be viewed as analogous to buying offset credits on global carbon offset markets.

Table 11 outlines the key benefits and considerations of offsetting within versus beyond the organisation's sphere of influence.

While there are several considerations, we recommend that organisations prioritise offsetting within their sphere of influence before purchasing credits beyond their influence. This is particularly relevant for local authorities, such as BCBC, where co-benefits and influence can be maximised.

Locality, while providing benefits, invariably increases the resource requirements on the insetting entity and should not be undertaken unless projects can be appropriately implemented and monitored.

There are a number of standards and accounting rules in developments that will guide how companies should record insets (especially carbon removals), however, in the meantime organisations should act as transparently as possible to ensure reported insets are credible. Third-party validation of any scheme could also be considered to ensure robust procedures are being followed.

Table 11 – Comparison of local and global offsetting approaches

	Local – Offsetting within sphere of influence	Global – Offsetting beyond sphere of influence
Benefits	• Strengthens supply chain and community relations with benefits from the resulting projects (e.g., environmental restoration, increased climate resilience, improved air quality), benefitting the stakeholders and communities engaged with the entity. • Benefits can be more easily communicated to stakeholders. • Greater control, oversight and transparency over projects and the ability to self-verify the project's credentials.	• Minimal work on behalf of the organisation required for measuring and verifying carbon reductions. • High availability with more choices across locations and methods, lowering a) the risk of not achieving offset reductions, and b) costs by allowing developers to use cost-effective methods. • "Global issue requires global solutions" – 1tCO_2e carbon offset locally is analogous to 1tCO_2e internationally.
Considerations	• Requires additional resource input from the organisation (inc. upskilling) and active management to ensure carbon reductions and/or removals are achieved and meet robust standards. • Measuring and verifying offsets can be complex and reporting standards and guidance is currently under development. • Inherently restricted to the type, size, and number of projects that can be implemented, increasing the risk of not meeting an offset target.	• The market infrastructure required to ensure quality offsets is not yet fully developed, and there are doubts over the credibility of many credits on the market today. The offsetting organisation also has little-to-no oversight over the quality and delivery of offsets. • Exposed to market dynamics (e.g., increasing credit prices, credit supply). • More difficult to communicate benefits to stakeholders.

5 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LIST OF REVIEWED DOCUMENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED

Documents reviewed	Stakeholders engaged
• 2030 Net Zero Strategy Action Planning 2023-24 outcome (excel) • 2024-25 Action Plan (excel) • Final BCBC Carbon Reduction Audit Report Issued (PDF) • Final Energy Efficiency & Monitoring Audit Report Issued (PDF) • Final Management Action Plan – Energy Efficiency Monitoring Issued (PDF) • Commissioning Form v03 27th September (Word doc) • WGES Net Zero Reporting results, 2020-2024 (Power BI) • Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	• Decarbonisation Programme Manager • Decarbonisation Programme Officer • Group Manager, Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability (Carbon Management Carbon Lead) • Group Manager, Corporate Landlord (Buildings Carbon Lead) • Group Manager, Highways & Green Spaces (Transport Carbon Lead) • Corporate Procurement Manager (Procurement Carbon Lead) • Climate Change Response Manager (Land Use Carbon Lead) • Head of Operations, Community Services (Waste Carbon Lead) • Energy Manager • Decarbonisation Programme Board members • Overview and Scrutiny Committee members

APPENDIX B: ACTION SCORING METHODOLOGY

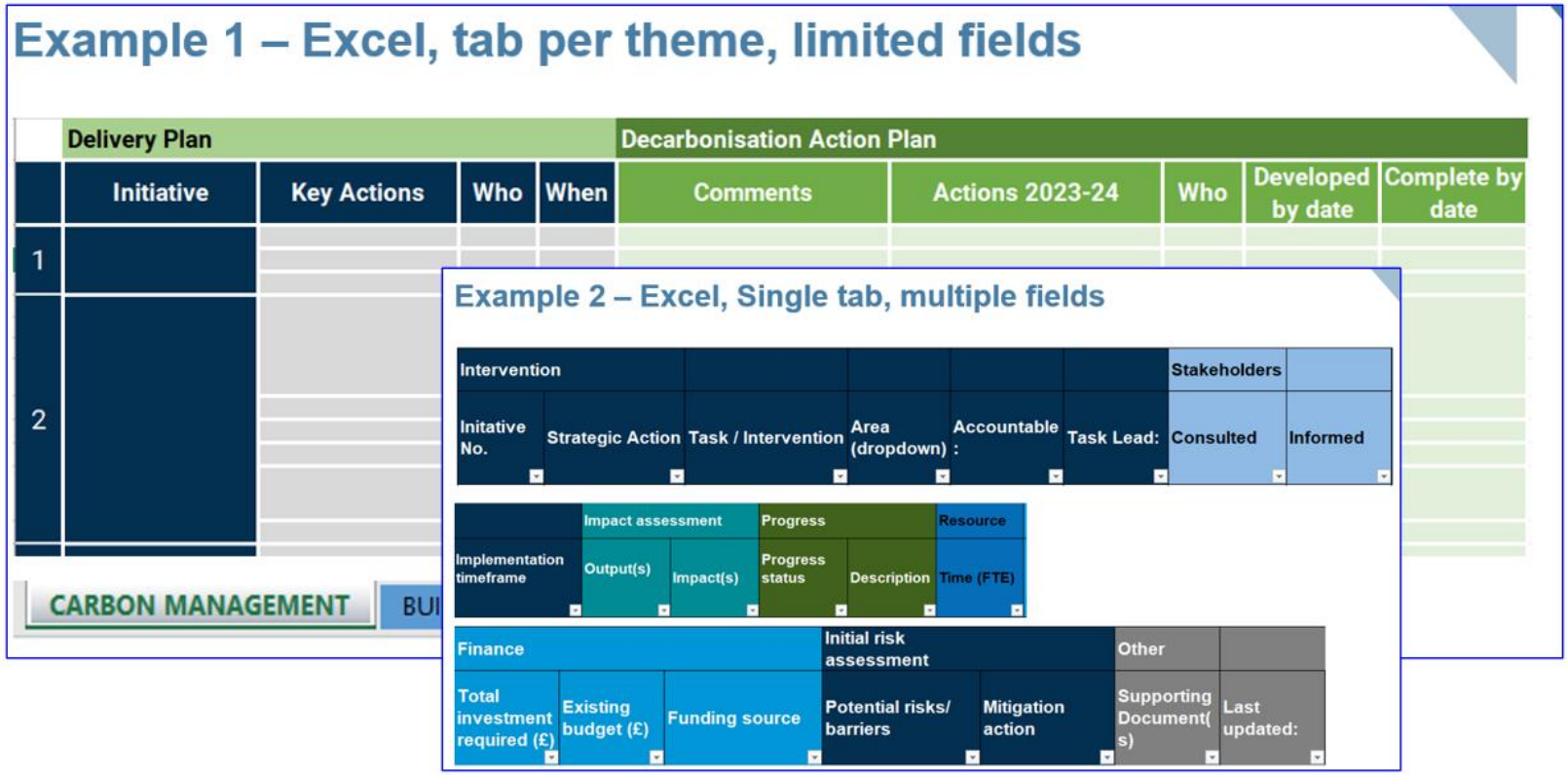
Minimal progress	Developing progress	Moderate progress	Advanced progress	Sector-leading progress
1	2	3	4	5
BCBC has made no or minimal progress since the previous Strategy.	BCBC has begun making basic progress since the previous Strategy.	BCBC has made moderate progress since the previous Strategy.	BCBC has made advanced progress since the previous Strategy.	BCBC has made exemplary progress since the previous Strategy.
Minimal or no policies and procedures are in place. The impact of existing policies and procedures is minimal or unknown. Minimal or no initiatives or projects.	Some policies and procedures are in place. Buy-in is restricted to those already interested and involved in the strategy. Monitoring the impact of policies and procedures is still in development. A couple of existing initiatives and projects have begun resulting in some improvements.	Comprehensive policies and strategies are in place, with buy-in from multiple departments across BCBC. Regular reviews and updates of policies to ensure they remain relevant and effective. A few ongoing initiatives and projects with measurable outcomes.	Well-integrated policies and strategies covering all operations, with high levels of engagement and commitment from most of BCBC. Policies and procedures are regularly evaluated and optimised for maximum effectiveness. Numerous successful projects with significant measurable impact.	Policies and procedures are exemplary, serving as best practices for others. Innovative and impactful projects with widespread recognition. Full engagement and leadership from all levels of BCBC.

APPENDIX C: BREAKDOWN OF EMISSION CATEGORIES

	Sum of Total emissions (tCO_2e)				
Year	**Buildings**	**Supply chain**	**Transport**	**Waste**	**Total**
2019/20	11,538	49,427	2,677	3,368	**67,011**
2020/21	11,940	54,432	1,898	1,266	**69,536**
2021/22	11,469	66,118	3,967	1,072	**82,625**
2022/23	12,475	40,748	5,987	1,150	**60,360**
2023/24	11,284	46,107	6,344	1,024	**64,758**
Total	**58,705**	**256,832**	**20,874**	**7,880**	**344,290**

APPENDIX D: EXAMPLE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR ACTION DELIVERY

This appendix presents example tools for managing delivery of decarbonisation actions. The templates shown are not currently in use by the organisation but are illustrative examples of approaches that could be adapted or adopted to support delivery planning. Example 1 shows a simplified Excel tracker structured by thematic tabs with a limited number of fields, useful for basic action tracking and ownership. Example 2 presents a more detailed single-sheet tracker with multiple fields including finance, risk, stakeholders, and delivery status—better suited to more complex programmes. The screenshots are intended to highlight possible structures and field types. Example 3 (next page) demonstrates a project tracker that links individual actions to a decarbonisation pathway model. It includes forecast and actual savings over time and visualises progress against cumulative carbon reduction targets. This approach helps ensure that individual projects are aligned with strategic emissions goals and can support performance monitoring at a portfolio level.



Example 3 – Excel, project tracker linked to pathway model

Savings to date	Savings to yr end	Savings Forecast to yr end	Spend to date	Spend Forecast to yr end	Savings Missed to date
£4,075	£21,225	£23,975	£3,300	£42,300	£1,000

£ 000s			2022												2023											
Save	Spend	Project	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
6.5	2.2	xxx		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2.5	0.0	ddd			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
3.2	1.1	vvvv					0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
12.0	25.0	ggg						–	–	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
5.0	10.0	Project 1									–	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
1.0	1.0	Project 2													0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
1.0	1.0	Project 3																		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
1.0	1.0	Project 4																				0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
1.0	1.0	Project 5																						0.1	0.1	0.1
Monthly Savings Total			0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cumulative Savings			0	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39
Cumulative Forecasted Savings			0	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	12	14	16	19	21	24	26	29	32	34	37	40	42	45	48

APPENDIX E: LIST OF UPDATED ACTIONS

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE INITIATIVES

Ref.	Initiative
BC1	Implement a comprehensive sustainability decision-making approach (see, for example, Cornwall Council's doughnut economics) to be included in all council business cases for investment, integrated with the wellbeing of future generations assessment. Integrate carbon costs into the decision-making process.
BC2	Develop an internal engagement plan strategically linked to Strategy initiatives, e.g. upskilling building managers to improve building energy use, educating building managers about the waste hierarchy and educating Directorates and service areas about sustainable procurement practices.
BC3	Continue to expand carbon literacy training for elected members and officers, prioritising officers who will support the delivery of the Strategy.
BC4	Ensure all Leads and members of the Community of Practices have their job descriptions updated to include defined responsibilities relating to the Strategy.
BC5	Utilise the Welsh Government Public Sector Carbon Reporting Guide to report annually the carbon footprints of the Council's operations. This will form the basis for tracking progress against the Net Zero 2030 target.
BC6	The Council will complete a business travel review to appraise the use of staff vehicles, pool cars and public transport across all departments; Council business travel policies will be updated accordingly.
BC7	The Council's staff business travel policy will prioritise the use of virtual meetings, active travel and public transport.
BC8	The Council will undertake a detailed review of staff commuting patterns to better understand the impact on its overall carbon footprint; guidance and incentive schemes will be considered to support staff. Use a staff survey to review commuting patterns and track progress against the Welsh Government's 30% work from home target.

FLEET COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE INITIATIVES

Ref.	Initiative
F1	The Council will oversee the development of a best practice approach for ULEV technology across the Council's own fleet and staff vehicles. The Council will seek support from WGES on ULEV and EV transition planning and implementation.
F2	Develop an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate, using lessons learnt on progress already made in the Highways team to inform progress in other service areas, with particular focus on social care and education.
F3	EVs will be prioritised as replacements for Council-owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2028.
F4	All new medium/large freight vehicles procured across the Council after April 2027 will be to the future modern standard of ULEVs.
F5	Review and track fuel used in small plant and equipment to understand their carbon footprint and what assets can be replaced with electric versions.

PROCUREMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE INITIATIVES

Ref.	Initiative
P1	The Council will develop a Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice to include a framework for assessing the sustainability credentials of suppliers at varying contract values and types; this will consider the evolving Welsh Procurement Policy Notes (WPPN).
P2	The Council will aim to engage with and utilise the local and low carbon supply chains whilst maintaining high standards for goods and services. This will be a corporate initiative and not just the responsibility of the procurement team.
P3	The Council will build upon WPPN 06/21 and require carbon management plans/decarbonisation improvement to be demonstrated in the highest carbon impact and strategic contracts by 2026, this will include contracts as they come to be procured associated with 'Transit & Ground Passenger Transport Services' and 'Nursing & Residential Care Services'.
P4	The Council will apply the principles of 'WPPN 12/21 Decarbonisation through Procurement', to an increasing proportion of contracts such that by 2030, all contracts above an agreed value are subject to carbon assessment and reporting.
P5	The Council, through its Economic Development function, will engage with its supply chain to communicate its ambition for Net Zero and the request for suppliers to come on the journey; the Council will share its developing procurement practice, resources for suppliers, and any opportunities for supply chain decarbonisation funding.
P6	The Council will provide a training programme for internal service commissioners by developing best practice and engaging experts; the Council procurement and service commissioners will work in collaboration to champion decarbonisation in the supply chain.

P7	Contract management will be used to oversee decarbonisation progress and carbon accounting in both short- and long-term contracts, this will be overseen by the BCBC Programme Board and reported to Corporate Management Board (CMB) as required.
P8	The Council recognises the need for a regional and national approach and will identify other organisations and forums for collaboration across Wales to help develop its understanding and take note from best practice approaches, particularly regarding how to introduce changes to procurement processes resulting from the Procurement Act 2023, such as the WLGA Procurement Task and Finish Group.
P9	Prioritise enabling a move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 supply chain emissions reporting. Engage with work being done by the Welsh Government Energy Service to develop a supplier contract emissions reporting tool.

ESTATES LEAD INITIATIVES

Ref.	Initiative
E1	The Council will prioritise the completion of a centralised asset register. For each site, the register will include details of the energy system, including a unique system ID, system type and age, historical energy consumption, and records of any decarbonisation works undertaken. For renewable energy assets (e.g. solar farms), the register should also capture generation capacity (kW) and availability (%).
E2	The Council will progress a transformational energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across its estate – every building will have undergone a multi-technology energy efficiency upgrade by 2030.
E3	The Council will undertake and commission surveys to collate a full asset and conditions list of major energy-consuming equipment (e.g. large plant) across its built estate by the end of 2026.
E4	The Council will complete expert low carbon heat studies for all large strategic sites to set the plan to transition away from fossil fuel heat sources.
E5	Decommissioning of traditional boilers will be preferred over replacement, with low carbon heat solutions appraised and prioritised within the business case process.
E6	Legacy lighting will only be replaced with modern LED alternatives; all lighting will be LED by 2030.
E7	All buildings will be assessed to have standardised, effective building management systems including a dedicated central resource to optimise energy use across the built estate on a consistent basis.
E8	The Council will complete surveys to understand the overall viable potential for onsite renewable energy generation across the estate. The council should aim to install as much of this potential by 2030.

E9	The Council will work closely with schools to develop a plan to better deliver carbon reduction in these buildings.
E10	The Council will improve its understanding of all owned land assets to correctly appreciate the levels of carbon sequestration by September 2026 and develop plans to maximise carbon benefits in these areas
E11	The Council will ensure all owned woodland and greenfield areas are maintained in a way to promote enhanced biodiversity and avoid any unnecessary loss of carbon sequestration.
E12	Where large-scale renewable developments are not possible, the Council will prioritise these areas for afforestation/reforestation and biodiversity programmes on its own land.
E13	The Council will undertake an assessment to understand the extent of peatland across its estate; a continual maintenance and regeneration programme will be put in place for any identified areas.
E14	Work with partners to map and review Council-owned land to identify categories that align with the Net Zero Reporting commitment

APPENDIX F: COST ESTIMATE ASSUMPTIONS

The table below presents the cost estimates for the initiatives where indicative capital costs have been calculated.

ID	Initiative	Estimated cost (£)	Calculation rationale and assumptions
B3	The Council will complete expert low carbon heat studies for all large strategic sites to set the plan to transition away from fossil fuel heat sources.	120,000	Estimate £10k a study. 12 sites above 500,000 kWh gas use.
B4	Decommissioning of traditional boilers will be preferred over replacement, with low carbon heat solutions appraised and prioritised within the business case process.	82,700,000	To estimate the scale and cost of a heat pump rollout across the Council's building portfolio, we applied benchmark fossil fuel consumption values based on building types, as defined in CIBSE TM46 (2021). This approach was used in place of actual gas consumption data, following detailed discussions with the Estates team, who requested a methodology that would reflect a more standardised and scalable estimate across the estate. Using this benchmark approach and the total floor area of Council buildings, we estimated annual fossil fuel consumption at 65,750,352 kWh. Based on this figure, the total heat pump capacity required to deliver an equivalent amount of heat is 22,145 kWp (estimating an average boiler efficiency of 80%), or approximately 97.5 Wp/m². Applying a unit cost of £3,735 per kW (data from the LCHG) —which includes equipment, design, enabling works, fabric improvements, installation, commissioning, and DNO costs—the estimated total investment required is approximately £82,700,000.
B5	Legacy lighting will only be replaced with modern LED alternatives; all lighting will be LED by 2030.	1,237,760	Subproject BS3 covers LED installation in six buildings. The installation of LEDs at these sites is currently at the proposal stage. The data for BS3 have been provided by the Energy Manager. From the building estate portfolio, we removed the excluded floor area associated with the BS3 and Refit projects, as we assumed that LED installation at these sites has already been completed. From the remaining floor area, we selected 50%, assuming that 50% has already been replaced. The resulting area is 90,840 m². Based on the BS3 proposal, we estimated that the cost for site surveys and LED installation is £13.60 per m². Therefore, the total estimated cost is 90,840 × £13.60, which is approximately £1,237,760.
B7	The Council will complete surveys to understand the overall viable potential for onsite renewable energy generation across the estate, by 2026 half of this potential should be installed, with the remainder by 2030.	4,900,000	Subproject BS4 covers installation of solar PV in 8 buildings. The installation of PV systems at these sites is currently at the proposal stage. The data for BS4 have been provided by the Energy Manager. From the building estate portfolio, we removed the floor area associated with BS4. From the remaining floor area, we selected 10%, assuming this represents the available roof space suitable for the installation of solar PV. The resulting area is 28,565 m². By selecting a panel model with a characteristic output of 190 W/m², the total installed capacity is estimated at 5,427 kWp. Based on BS4, the average cost of installation is £901.66 per kWp. Therefore, the total estimated cost is 901.66 × 5,427, which is approximately £4,893,626.
BS1	Subproject 1 - BMS Optimisation	3,580,000	We calculated the floor area of the estate where the installation of a BMS is reasonable (schools, offices, etc.). Of these, we considered that in half of them a BMS review has already been undertaken, based on feedback from the Energy Manager. The resulting area is 137,706 m². SPONS rates for office buildings under 5,000 m² with a full BMS installation are £22–26 per m². We considered the highest end of this range. Therefore, the total estimated cost is 137,706 × 26, which is approximately £3,580,361.

BS2	Subproject 2 - Loft insulation	1,105,300	From the EM, we received data on survey costs and roof loft insulation costs. The EM provided costs and savings from proposals for roof loft insulation across 16 buildings. The cost for survey and installation in these 16 buildings is £208,466 (based on costs for Bryn y Cae Care Home, which has already been surveyed and quoted). We then estimated the m² of the remaining estate and assumed that 50% of that area requires loft roof insulation. The resulting area is 128,924 m². Based on Bryn y Cae Care Home data, the cost for the survey is £0.956/m², and the cost for installation is £6/m². Therefore, the estimated cost for loft roof insulation across the remaining estate (excluding the 16 buildings) is £896,823. Adding the cost for the 16 buildings already in the proposal (£208,466), the total estimated cost is: £896,823 + £208,466 = approximately £1,105,300.£
BS3	Subproject 3 - LED lighting (Schools)	5,000,000	From the Energy Manager's (EM) proposal for the eight buildings (schools) already surveyed and quoted, we have the cost estimate for replacing LEDs in these schools. The average cost for LED installation at these sites is £11.10/m². The proposal stated that over the next six years (from April 2024), it is estimated that approximately six buildings could have their lighting replaced each year, resulting in a significant proportion of the total school portfolio being covered. Therefore, we calculated the total cost for this programme — including the eight schools already surveyed and an additional 30 schools over the next five years, 38 schools in total — to be approximately £4,923,624.
BS4	Subproject 4 - Roof solar (existing pipeline)	230,000	The cost was taken from the proposal for the installation of solar PV across eight sites. The project was intended to be funded through the decarbonisation programme budget; however, the available budget has been reduced from £450,000 to £150,000.
BS5	Subproject 5 - LCHG (not successful)	258,000	The cost was taken from the LCHG third round application, which was not funded.
T1	The Council will complete a business travel review to appraise the use of staff vehicles, pool cars and public transport across all departments; Council business travel policies will be updated accordingly.	50,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work.
T2	The Councils staff business travel policy will prioritise the use of virtual meetings, active travel and public transport.		Integrated above
T3	The Council will undertake a detailed review of staff commuting patterns to better understand the impact on its overall carbon footprint; guidance and incentive schemes will be considered to support staff.	20,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work
T6	To encourage the transition to an EV fleet the Council will prioritise the development of an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate.	50,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work.

T7	EVs will be prioritised as replacements for Council owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2030.	2,900,000	A total of 93 Council-owned vehicles—comprising 9 cars and 84 light commercial vehicles (LCVs)—have been identified as non-compliant with Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) standards. Replacement cost estimates are based on pricing provided through the Welsh Government Energy Service's EV/EVCI Grant programme, which reflects public procurement rates for bulk orders. These rates are typically lower than retail prices and are considered robust for strategic planning purposes. Following discussions with the project team, a conservative unit cost of £29,100 for cars and £31,300 for vans has been applied, resulting in a total estimated investment of approximately £2.9 million for full vehicle replacement.
T8	All new medium / large freight vehicles procured across the Council after April 2030 will be to the future modern standard of ULEVs.	6,960,000	109 vehicles — comprising 54 medium commercial vehicles (MCVs), 23 heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), and 32 minibuses — are not ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs). The average replacement costs are as follows: MCVs: £35,000 each Minibuses: £65,000 each HGVs: £130,000 each
L2	The Council will improve its understanding of all owned land assets to correctly appreciate the levels of carbon sequestration by March 2026 and develop plans to maximise carbon benefits in these areas.	50,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work
L4	The Council will identify its own and neighbouring land for large-scale renewable developments, primarily solar and wind projects. Private wire connections to owned sites will be prioritised over exporting directly to the grid.	50,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work
L6	The Council will undertake an assessment to understand the extent of peatland across its estate; a continual maintenance and regeneration programme will be put in place for any identified areas.	30,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work.
• P2	The Council will aim to engage with and utilise the local and low carbon supply chains whilst maintaining high standards for goods and services.	40,000	The cost was estimated based on typical requirements for this type of work.

P4	The Council will apply the principles of 'WPPN 12/21 Decarbonisation through Procurement', to an increasing proportion of contracts such that by 2030, all contracts above a reasonable threshold are subject to carbon assessment and reporting.	100,000	Assume £20k cost per annum for management and verification.
P7	The Council will provide a training programme for internal service commissioners by developing best practice and engaging experts; the Council procurement and service commissioners will work in collaboration to champion decarbonisation in the supply chain.	50,000	£10k a year up to 2030 to engage experts and run training sessions.
P8	Dedicated resource will be put in place to support the development of the Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice, Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy and ongoing management of decarbonisation through procurement.	225,000	1 FTE @£45k over 5 years.
TOTAL		**109,656,060**	

Bridgend County Borough Council

Net Zero Strategy

Draft for consultation

July 2025

DRAFT JULY 2025

FOREWORD

Leader of Council & Chief Exec Joint Statement

- To follow in the final version of this document

DRAFT JULY 2025

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The Climate Emergency in Wales

Immediate and bold action to tackle climate change is more crucial now than ever before.

Wales has been at the forefront of environmental, social and governance improvements, accounting for climate change impacts on future generations and enshrining in law mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce the worst consequences of global heating.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015, requires public bodies to work together to improve the "social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales." The world-leading Act sets out seven well-being goals addressing challenges, including climate change, to ensure that future generations have a good quality of life.

The Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, promotes the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, balancing the competing priorities of building the necessary infrastructure and protecting vital ecosystems. The Act requires Welsh Ministers to set decarbonisation targets and carbon budgets – an essential first step in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The revision to the Act (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 sets the target for Wales to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

In 2019, Welsh Ministers and the Senedd declared a climate emergency, reaffirming Wales' commitment and determination to tackle the climate crisis. Subsequently, the Welsh Government published its Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales – a plan that sets out what the Welsh Government is doing and will do to respond to the changing climate.

To achieve Net Zero by 2050, a series of 5-year carbon budgets between 2016 and 2050 have been agreed by the Welsh Government in Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2, published in 2021. This outlines 123 policies and proposals to meet the second of these carbon budgets (2021-2025), by reducing emissions by 37% against the baseline.

Net Zero Wales also has the collective ambition for the public sector to achieve Net Zero by 2030. In line with this commitment, the Welsh Government Net Zero Strategic Plan (2022) sets the approach for their own operational and supply chain emissions. Current modelling shows a gap between ambition and delivery.

Welsh Ministers have the ambition for public bodies and community enterprises in Wales to develop over 100MW of new renewable capacity by 2026. They also aim for 1.5GW of electricity generated in Wales to be locally owned by 2035.

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The feasibility of the 2030 Net Zero ambition for the Welsh public sector is increasingly under discussion. While the Welsh Government has not formally revised the target, there is recognition that significant challenges exist, particularly for local authorities facing financial, operational, and policy constraints. A review of the approach to the 2030 target is expected next year, which may lead to further strategic adjustments.

Bridgend's Declaration of a Climate Emergency

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared a climate emergency in June 2020 and set up a Climate Emergency Response programme. This commits to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations, aligning with Welsh public sector ambitions. This goal is driven by the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Environment Act, and the Climate Change Regulations (Carbon Budgets). BCBC follows the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Process for its annual carbon footprint. Recognising its leadership role, BCBC aims to enable broader Net Zero goals for local businesses and communities. Decarbonisation is a priority in BCBC's Corporate Plan, and climate change decision-making is integrated through Bridgend's Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan.

In 2021, BCBC developed its Net Zero Carbon Strategy, in collaboration with the Carbon Trust, which was formally adopted by the Cabinet in January 2023. The Strategy outlined six priority action plans covering carbon management, buildings, transport, procurement, land use and waste, alongside governance arrangements to support delivery.

Recognising the need for continuous improvement, BCBC committed to reviewing the Strategy in 2024 and 2027 to account for policy changes, technological advancements and market developments. This strategy has been updated following the 2024 review, which assessed progress against the Strategy's objectives, updating emissions modelling, and refined action plans to ensure they remain aligned with Welsh and UK policy.

What have we achieved to date?

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2020 and publishing its 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy in 2021, BCBC has taken steps to reduce carbon emissions across its operations and support the county's transition to Net Zero. Over the past three years, the Council has implemented decarbonisation projects across key areas, such as buildings, transport, and land use.

Progress has been materially hampered due to the Council's financial challenges. Budgetary pressures meant the programme was not granted the requested revenue to

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implement the actions after the Strategy was adopted. Local authorities across Wales and the UK are faced with these challenges.

A summary of recent and active schemes progressing decarbonisation across the themes of buildings, transport, land use, and procurement is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - BCBC decarbonisation actions since 2021

Transport	Buildings	Land Use	Procurement
• LED street lighting • Porthcawl - new bus terminus • Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure installed across the BCBC estate • Ultra-low emission vehicle (ULEV) infrastructure • Active travel provision	• Re:fit Cymru –retrofit programme • Bridgend District Heat Network • Bryncethin Depot – solar PV, LED & battery storage • Roof mount solar PV – multi-site • 21st Century Schools Programme • Site audits and control optimisation of all school and office sites • Low Carbon Heat Grant - round 2 (Installing air source heat pumps at two sites)	• Coastal protection scheme • Extending Local Nature Reserves areas • Feasibility – land-based renewables • Tree planting – i-Tree eco study • New Local Development Plan	• Regional procurement networks • Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy

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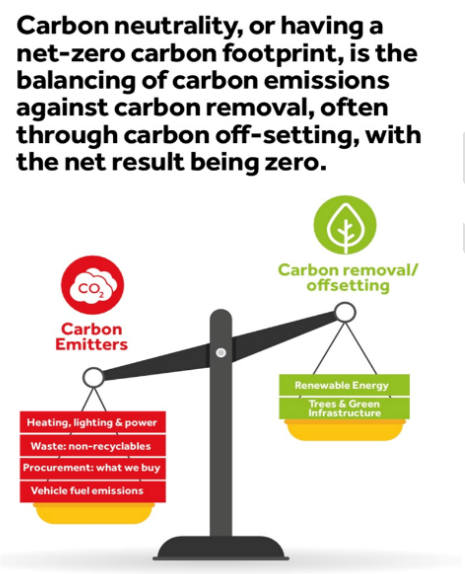
Carbon Neutral – What does this mean?

Carbon neutrality or Net Zero Carbon means balancing the greenhouse gas emissions we produce with the number of gases we are removing from the atmosphere. This is shown in the diagram below. Currently, the world is producing more greenhouse gas emissions than it absorbs which is causing global warming and climate change.



What is Bridgend's Carbon Footprint?

Welsh Governments Carbon Reporting looks at emissions being attributed to the three categories or scopes: -

Scope 1 – Direct Emissions - are those that occur from an organisation at source, for example by heating buildings or from the exhausts of vehicles.

Scope 2 - Indirect Emissions – are those that occur mainly from electricity used in our activities but where generation and associated emissions are elsewhere.

Scope 3 – All other indirect emissions – this covers emissions associated with areas such as procurement, staff commuting and direct waste.

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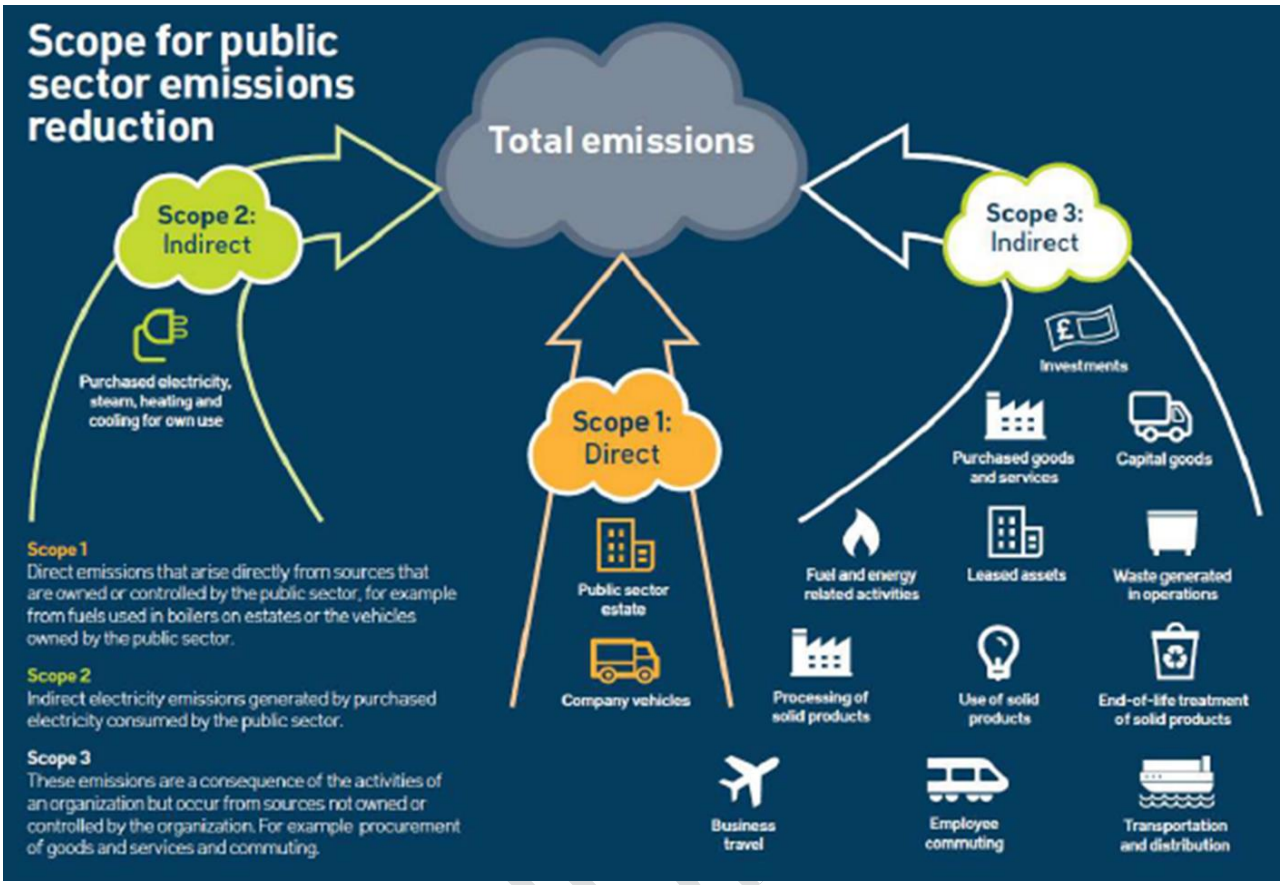

2019-20 Baseline

The baseline year for BCBC's Net Zero Strategy is 2019/20, aligning with the Welsh Government's initial commitment to a Net Zero public sector and the first year of Net Zero Reporting. As part of the development of the 2021 Net Zero Strategy, BCBC's 2019/20 total carbon footprint was estimated at approximately 90,241 tCO_2e, broken down as follows and Figure 1.

- Scope 1: 6,106 tCO_2e
- Scope 2: 4,983 tCO_2e
- Scope 3: 79,152 tCO_2e1

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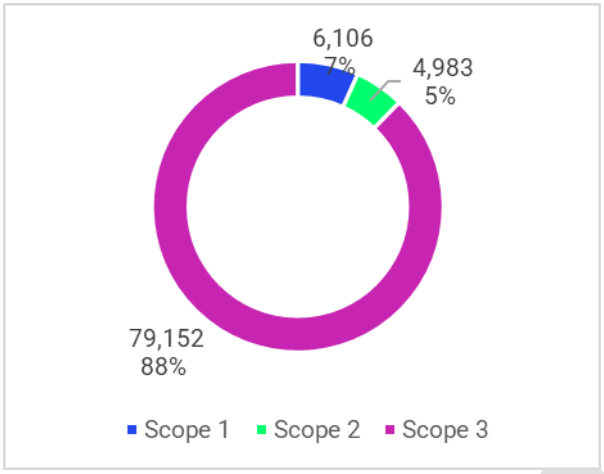

Figure 1 2021 Strategy 2019/20 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO2e)

Subsequent calculations under the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting methodology produce a different footprint figure for 2019/20, with total emissions estimated at 67,011 tCO_2e, broken down as follows and Figure 2.

- Scope 1: 6,146 tCO_2e
- Scope 2: 5,405 tCO_2e
- Scope 3: 55,459 tCO_2e

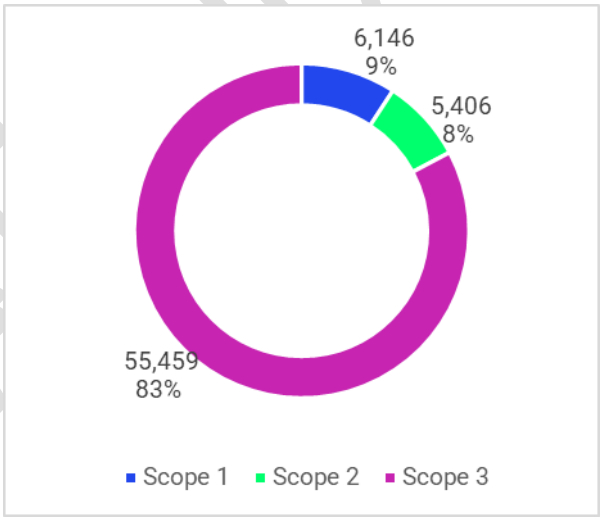

Figure 2 Net Zero Reporting 2019/20 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO2e)

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The difference in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions is minimal. The bigger discrepancy is in purchased goods and services in Scope 3. This difference is primarily due to differences in emission factor values in the calculations:

- The footprint calculated during the **initial Strategy development** applied Environmentally Extended Input-Output (EEIO) factors
- The footprint calculated under the **current Net Zero Reporting** used DEFRA published Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) emission factors.

As the Net Zero Reporting methodology is now the standard methodology for the Welsh public sector, BCBC's baseline has been updated to align with this approach meaning from now on **the baseline emission figure used for 2019/20 is 67,010 tCO_2e**. This ensures an ability to analyse multiple years of data using a standardised methodology.

The diagram below illustrates what percentage of the Council's emissions are in which Scope. As is evident below, Scope 1 and 2 contain the lowest levels of carbon emissions, whilst 87% of the Council's emissions come via Scope 3. These are indirect emissions in areas including the supply chain, business travel, commuting and direct waste.

2023-24 Carbon Footprint

The total estimated carbon footprint for 2023/24 was **64,825 tCO_2e**. Figure 3 illustrates the 2023/24 carbon footprint broken down by scope.

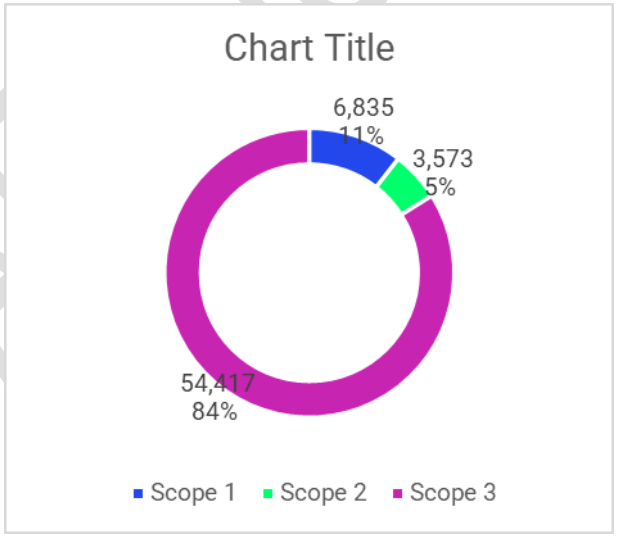

Figure 3 Net Zero Reporting 2023/24 BCBC carbon footprint by scope (tCO2e)

Over the past five years, BCBC's emissions have fluctuated (see Figure 4), peaking in 2021/22, followed by a significant decline in 2022/23 and a subsequent increase in 2023/24. Overall, total emissions have decreased by 3.4% since 2019/20. Scope 3

emissions are the primary driver of change, while Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions show more limited variations.

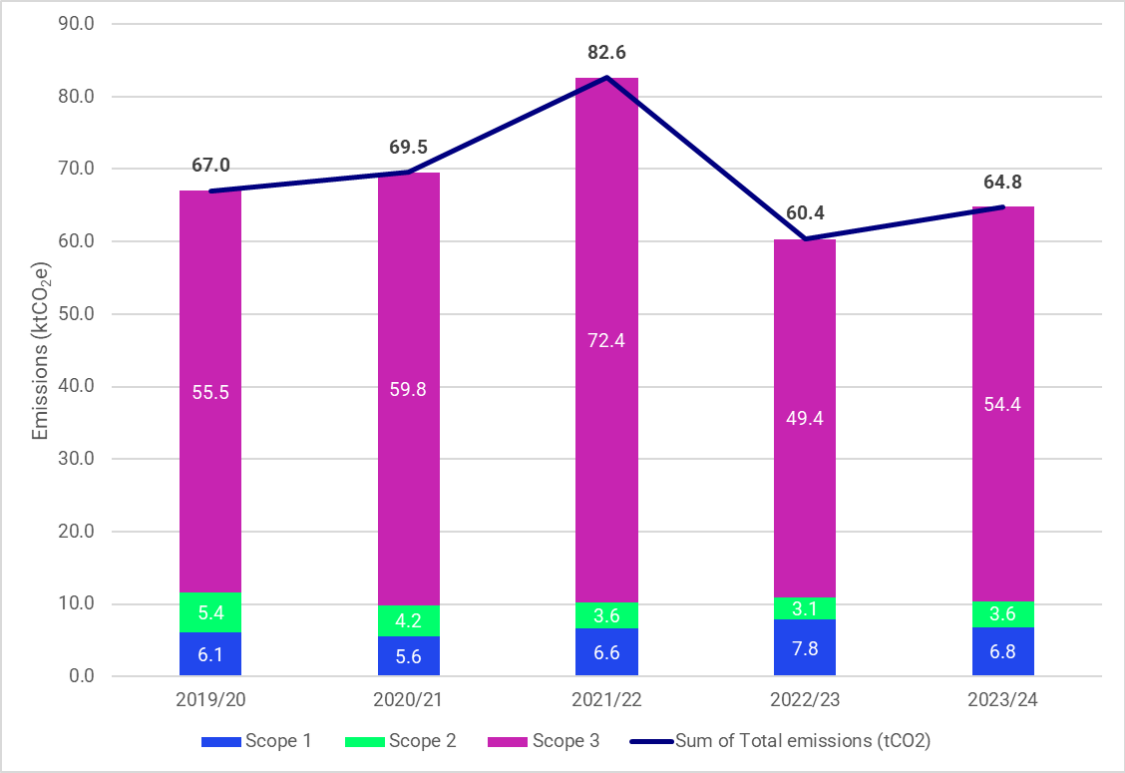

Figure 4 Net Zero Reporting BCBC carbon footprint time series by scope (tCO2e)

As shown in Figure 4, Scope 1 emissions have increased by 11.2% since 2019/20, rising from 6,146 tCO_2e to 6,835 tCO_2e, indicating a moderate increase in fuel consumption. Scope 2 emissions have decreased by 33.9%, from 5,405 tCO_2e to 3,573 tCO_2e, likely due to a combination of energy efficiency improvements, increased on-site renewable energy generation, and a reduction in the carbon intensity of grid electricity. Scope 3 emissions have marginally reduced by 1.9%, from 55,459 tCO_2e to 54,417 tCO_2e.

Figure 5 below presents the emissions breakdown by category rather than by scope, highlighting key sources such as buildings, the supply chain, transport, and waste.

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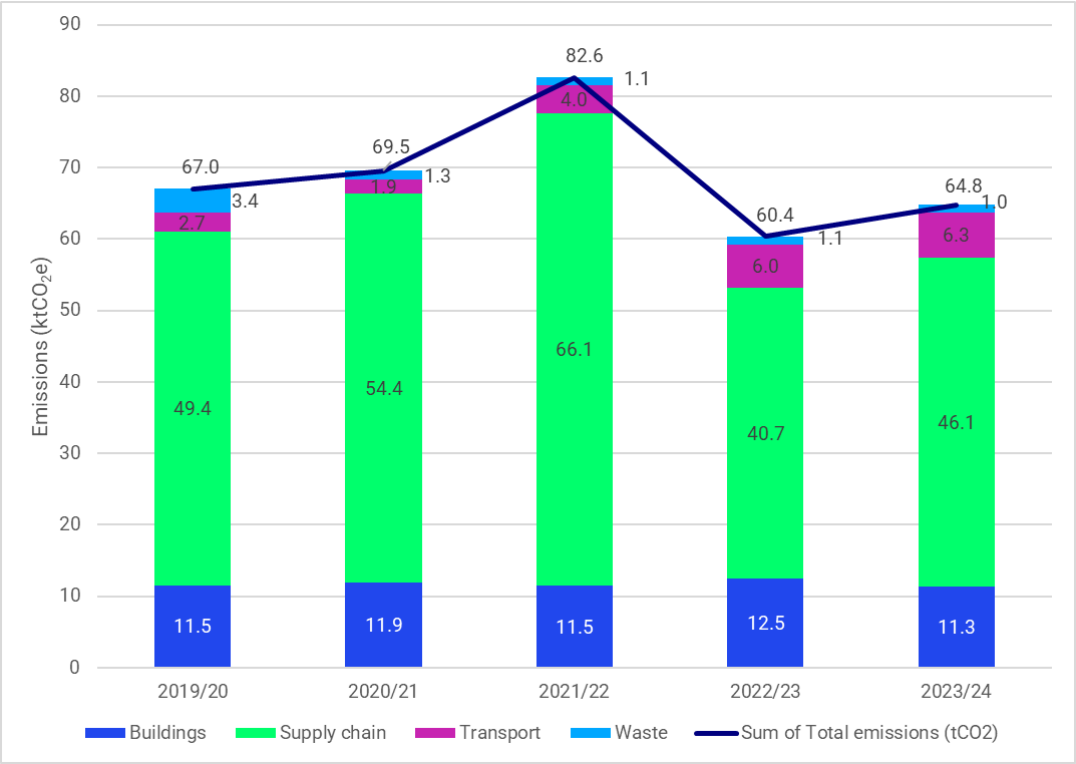

Figure 5 Net Zero Reporting BCBC carbon footprint time series by emissions category

Supply chain is the largest emission category. In 2023/24, supply chain emissions were 71% of the total footprint at 46,106 tCO_2e, a 7% decrease from 49,427 tCO_2e in 2020/21. Supply chain emissions were also the main factor behind the peak in 2021/22, reaching 66,135 tCO_2e, highlighting the significant impact of procurement activities, calculated using spend-based proxies, on overall emissions trends. This underlines the continued need for decarbonisation efforts in supplier engagement.

Building emissions have remained relatively stable at around 17% of the total footprint, with 11,284 tCO_2e recorded in 2023/24. However, this masks a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption over the past year. In 2024, fossil fuel use fell by 21%, from 38.6 million kWh to 30.5 million kWh, while electricity consumption increased by 11%, from 12.1 million kWh to 13.5 million kWh.

Transport emissions have increased, rising from 4% of the total (2,677 tCO_2e) in 2020/21 to 10% (6,344 tCO_2e) in 2023/24. This increase is primarily due to the inclusion of commuting and homeworking emissions from 2023 onwards, as well as greater vehicle use following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Waste emissions remain low and stable, contributing just 2% of total emissions, at 1,024 tCO_2e in 2023/24.

It must be noted that some progress towards the net zero target depends on external factors beyond BCBC's direct control, such as the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid and private sector decarbonisation of the supply chain.

Carbon Management Plan

The Council has established a baseline for its total carbon emissions in 2019/20, estimated at 67,011 tCO_2e. This figure is based on actual data where available; however, some elements, such as carbon sequestration from natural assets on Council-owned land, could not be quantified at this stage.

It is recognised that fully eliminating carbon emissions from Council operations is unlikely to be feasible – a challenge common to all Local Authorities in Wales. The Council must therefore prioritise emissions reduction as far as possible before relying on offsetting measures to achieve Net Zero.

The emissions remaining after all feasible reductions are referred to as the "Gap to Target." This represents the volume of residual emissions that would need to be offset in order to achieve Net Zero by 2030. Based on the emissions modelling carried out for BCBC, the gap is projected to be **54,656 tCO_2e** under a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Under the Initiatives scenario – where the Council implements the proposed emissions reduction measures the gap is reduced to **36,996 tCO_2e**. This is illustrated in Figure 6, which shows the total emissions projections for the Council from 2019/20 to 2029/30.

The Business as Usual (BAU) scenario models the Council's projected emissions in 2030, assuming no significant changes in operational activity compared to the baseline year.

It incorporates anticipated external decarbonisation trends, such as reductions in emissions from the national electricity grid and supply chains, but assumes that the Council's internal activity levels (e.g. energy use, travel, and procurement) remain consistent with current patterns.

The Initiatives scenario builds on the BAU projection by modelling the combined impact of external decarbonisation and the implementation of the actions outlined earlier in this report. These actions include measures to reduce energy demand, switch to lower-carbon fuels, and improve efficiency across buildings, fleet, and procurement activities.

Figures 7, 8, and 9 break down the total emissions projections shown in Figure 6, outlining decarbonisation pathways for supply chain, buildings, fleet, business travel, commuting and homeworking emissions, respectively. These provide a more detailed view of the modelling undertaken as part of this Strategy.

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Further decarbonisation pathways are outlined below for supply chain, buildings and transport emissions. These represent in more detail the high-level modelling that is been undertaken as part of this strategy.

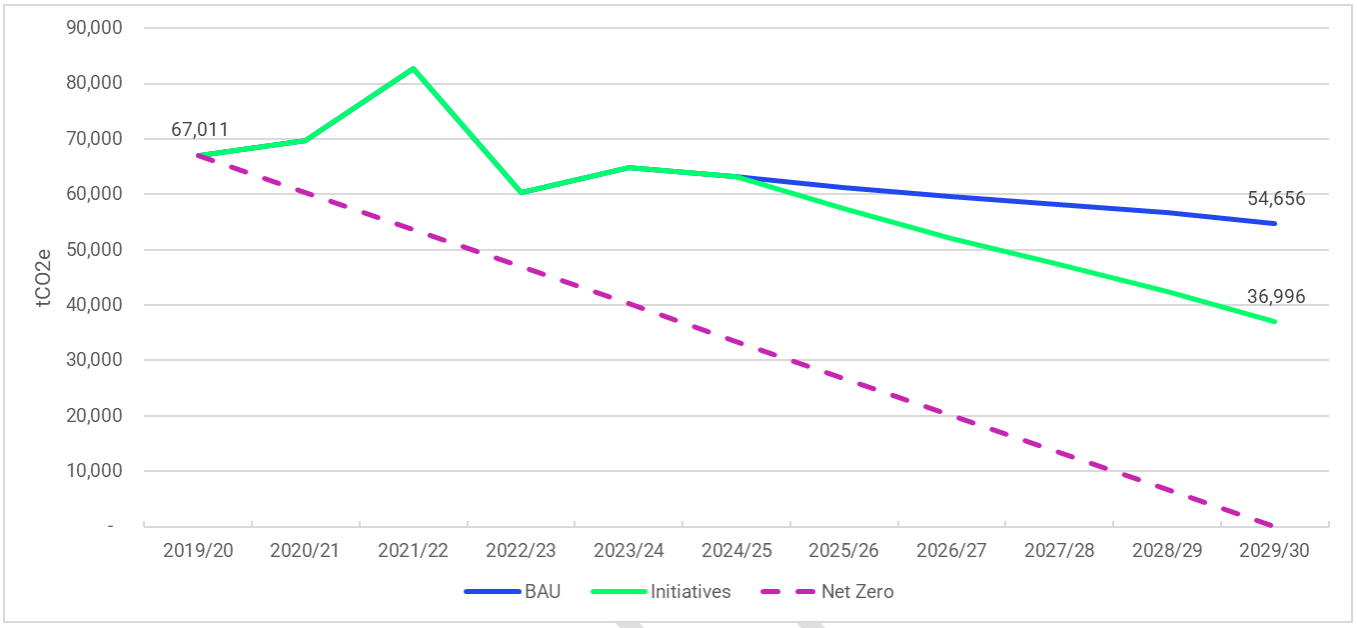


Figure 6 BCBC total emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

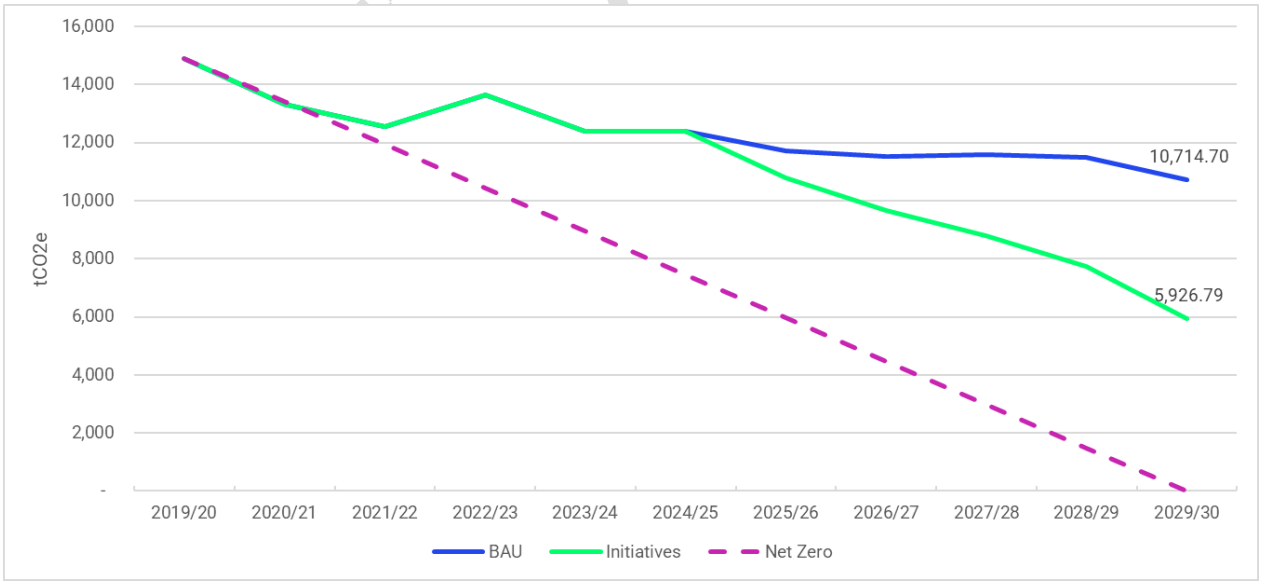


Figure 7 BCBC buildings emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios (Buildings include – Electricity, Gas, Other Fuels, Water and Waste projections)

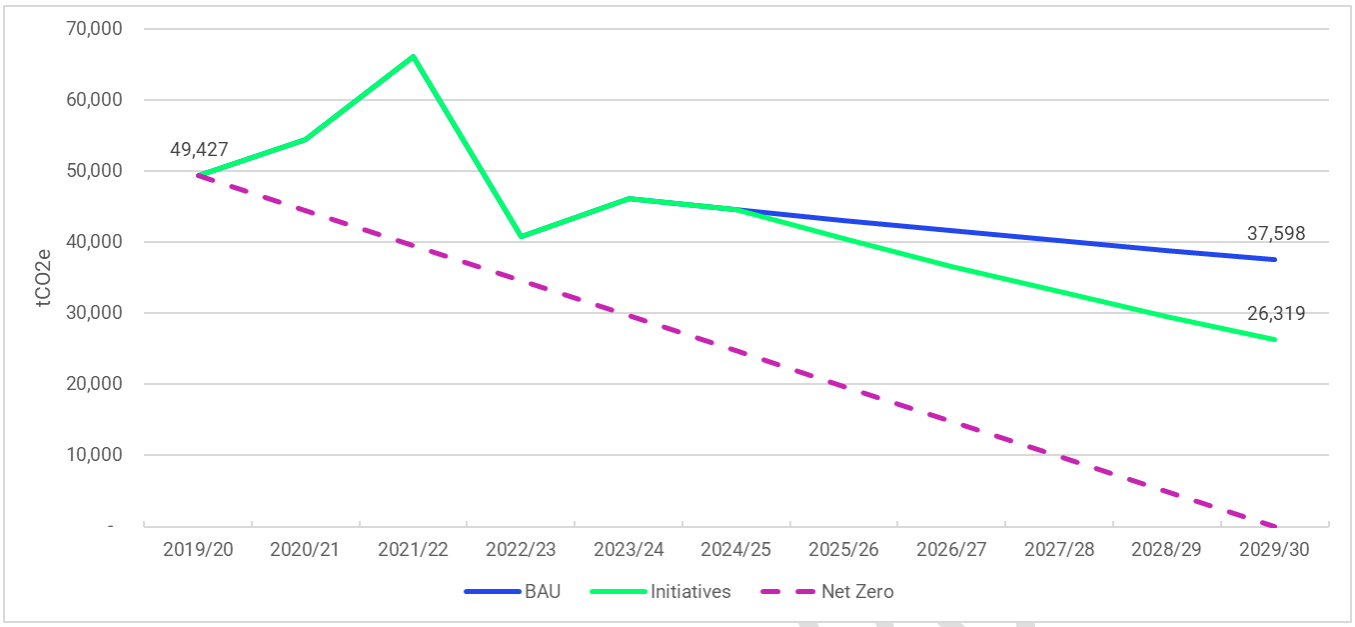


Figure 8 BCBC Procurement emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

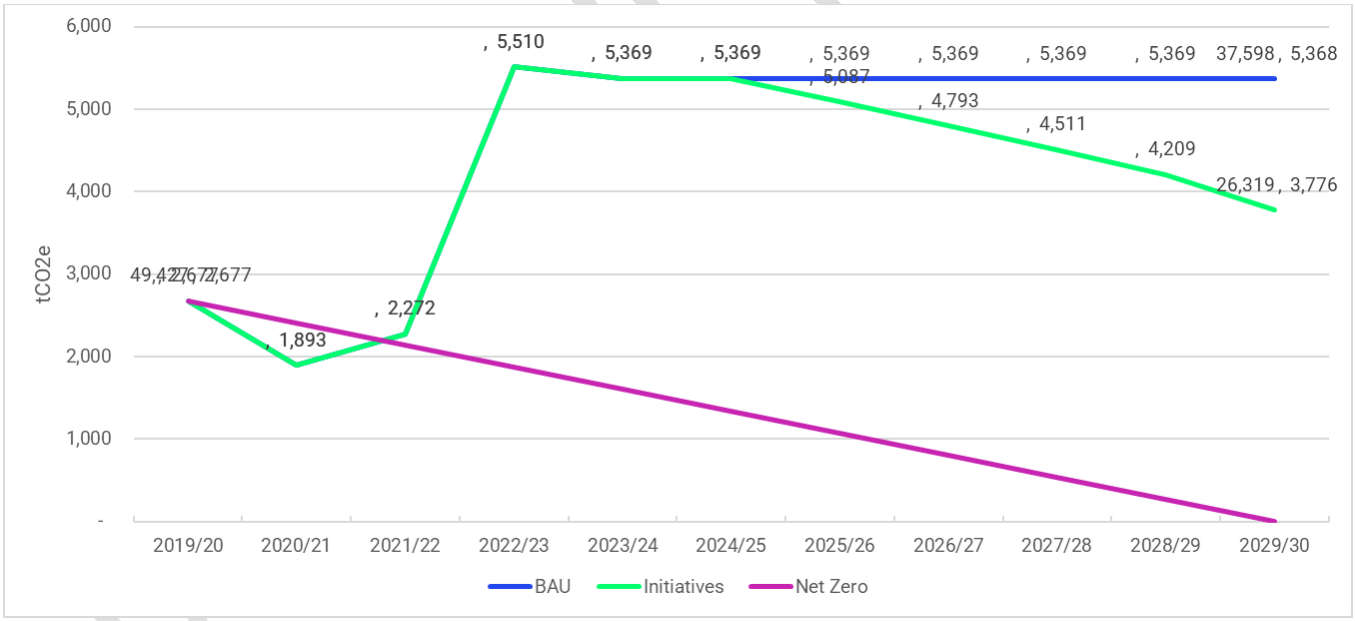


Figure 9 BCBC -Fleet, Business Travel, Commuting & Homeworking emissions projections from the baseline year (2019/20) to 2030 under Business as Usual and Initiatives scenarios

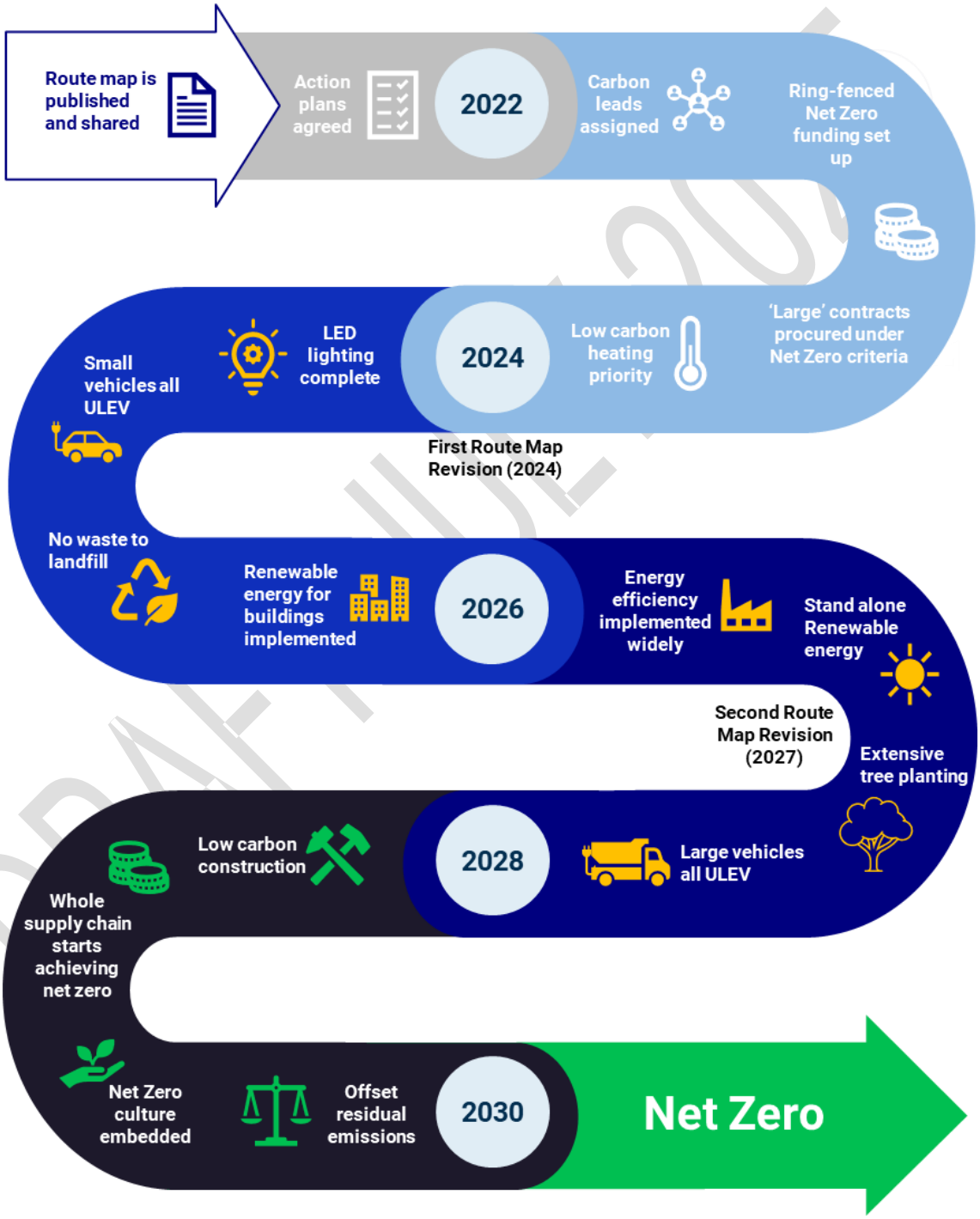
Bridgend's Net Zero Commitments

The Council has aligned its Net Zero target with the Welsh Government ambition of achieving a Net Zero public sector by 2030. This will require understanding the priorities, costs, stakeholders and wider impacts of actions associated with council operations, whilst improving understanding of the public sector's role in influencing change in society and the wider economic system. The Council's 8 net zero commitments are as follows:-

Commitment 1	The Council will demonstrate leadership and commitment to deliver the Bridgend Net Zero Carbon Strategy, to address the Climate Emergency as declared by Welsh Government, the Senedd and the Council.
Commitment 2	The Council will integrate low and zero-carbon behaviours throughout the organisation and carbon impact will become a key consideration in all strategic decisions.
Commitment 3	The Council will decarbonise its built estate by 2030 with a strong focus on energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable generation.
Commitment 4	The Council will undertake a programme of fleet renewal to ultra-low emission vehicles, such that all vehicles are ULEV by 2030.
Commitment 5	The Council will promote active and low-carbon travel options throughout its own operations.
Commitment 6	The Council will decarbonise its procurement activity by engaging the supply chain, supporting and mandating suppliers to decarbonise, and progressing sustainable, local procurement practices.
Commitment 7	The Council will ensure its land holdings are developed and maintained to support Net Zero objectives through high levels of carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
Commitment 8	The Council will decarbonise its waste streams by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture alongside sustainable methods of disposal.

Route Map to a Net Zero Bridgend

The Route Map below lays out key milestones that need to be achieved on the way to a fully Net Zero Council. It is ambitious and will be challenging to achieve, with partnerships integral to an effective delivery. Detailed Actions plans have been prepared against the 8 Corporate Commitments and these are set out in Appendix 2.



Next Steps to achieving Net Zero

The is no doubting that the Bridgend Net Zero Strategy is ambitious in its commitments and will be equalling challenging to deliver. Key to this will be ensuring that a robust and effective governance structure is in place to make decisions, sustain momentum and action over the long term and monitor and review progress against our carbon reduction plans. The implementation of this strategy is detailed in Appendix 1.

It is also critical that focus is placed on putting the actions presented within the strategy into motion immediately. We will use the content and quantifications (energy, carbon and cost-saving potential) included throughout this document, as a building block for the development of detailed business cases for action going forward. The Action Plans that build on the 8 commitments are included in Appendix 2.

It must also be recognised that access to additional resources and finance is critical to ensure the success of the Strategy. Whilst many projects are already resourced and funded via the Council's Capital Programme or external grant schemes and providers, such as UK Government, Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region, there will be a requirement for additional resources in the future to deliver new initiatives or schemes. The Council will continue to identify partnership opportunities and funding streams to progress this decarbonisation agenda.

We will review our Action Plans annually to include new projects as they are developed and approved and to monitor and measure progress both on emission reduction but also against a broader spectrum of sustainability and wellbeing metrics. By reviewing annually, we can ensure a dynamic response and evolving action plans that reflect the needs and priorities of the Borough and its residents. However, much progress can still be made by championing decarbonisation within the decision-making processes of the Council, and by integrating this into corporate behaviours.

This Strategy provides the direction for decarbonisation of the Council's own emissions as an organisation. However, as a Council there is a critical leadership role in supporting a Net Zero transition across the communities, businesses, and infrastructure for the county. It is recognised that the Council will require full support and engagement from all parts of the county to ensure the climate emergency can be overcome. Everyone will need to work together as one to reach Net Zero and support the well-being of future generations in Wales.

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Appendix 1 – Bridgend Net Zero Implementation Plan

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Strategy Governance

The Council have identified that governance and engagement are essential for a successful decarbonisation strategy. To deliver the strategy, organisational change is required to maintain a focus on long-term decarbonisation and carbon management. This section describes the actions the Council will undertake to embed decarbonisation into the organisation.

The Decarbonisation Programme Board will be maintained to oversee and track progress to Net Zero Carbon. The Programme Board will be Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and led by the Corporate Director of the Communities, and the Decarbonisation Programme Manager will oversee the overall organisation and delivery of the strategy.

Carbon Leads and Communities of Practice

Following the conclusion of Strategy review process, instead of having individual officers responsible for each activity stream, for some areas responsibility is spread across a 'Community of Practice' (CoP), a group with representatives across different, relevant service areas. Activity stream delivery will be overseen as follows:

- Behaviour Change Community of Practice
- Fleet Community of Practice
- Procurement Community of Practice
- Estates Carbon Lead (activity within a single service area)

Carbon Lead Principles	Community of Practice Principles
• Relevant for activity streams that sit within a single service area, e.g. Estates. • The Lead integrates the delivery of the activity stream into pre-existing service area groups/meetings. • Targets and actions must be integrated into the Directorate business plans as part of a BAU workstream. • The Lead project manages the delivery of the targets for the activity stream and reports to the Decarbonisation Programme Manager and the Decarbonisation Programme Board.	• Relevant for activity streams that cut across multiple service areas, e.g. Behaviour change, Procurement and Fleet. • Constitutes a formal group with Terms of Reference, a Chair and a rolling agenda. CoPs should meet every six weeks, the week before the Programme Board. • Members must have the capacity to deliver actions. • The Chair project manages the delivery of the targets for the activity stream and reports to the Decarbonisation Programme Manager and the Decarbonisation Board.

The Waste activity stream in the first version of this strategy will not have a dedicated Lead or Community of Practice because Council waste management will be driven by national legislation. Some Council waste actions, particularly concerning behaviour change and procurement, have been redistributed to those relevant CoPs.

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Action Plans

Defined action plans will form the basis of the Council's decarbonisation initiatives to achieve Net Zero. Strategic initiatives are listed within the action plan section against each of the defined activity streams. The Council have highlighted the following activity streams to focus decarbonisation efforts. Communities of Practice and Carbon Leads for each activity stream will be responsible for driving progress against the action plans and maintaining momentum.

1. Behaviour Change
2. Fleet
3. Procurement
4. Estates

The Council recognises the challenge that achieving Net Zero poses to normal operations and delivery of service. It should be noted that all decarbonisation initiatives presented in the action plans (Appendix 2) within this report will be subject to resource, finance availability and an individual business case assessment. Initiatives are ambitious to drive the transformational change within the organisation that is required to achieve a Net Zero future.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Once the updated Strategy is adopted, measuring progress will be an essential part of its implementation.

Ongoing monitoring is crucial to understand if the strategy is on track. Evaluation of the action plans will take place annually within the agreed timeframe. This will help the Council to identify whether objectives have been met, alongside its impacts and lessons learned from the initiative.

It is also recognised that the decarbonisation sector is developing rapidly. It is likely new innovative technologies and solutions will come into the mix that may have not been considered at the time of this report. With that in mind, this Strategy will be reviewed again in full in 2027, to update against the fast-moving sector.

Stakeholder Engagement

Robust engagement with stakeholders from across Bridgend will be crucial for successful climate action. The Council will continue to explore innovative ways through which the whole organisation can contribute towards achieving Net Zero. It should ensure that an effective engagement strategy that actively involves all council departments and employees is drawn up. Achieving the greatest possible input and buy-in will allow the Council to work closely with key stakeholders to identify the areas of the council that need to be prioritised to reduce emissions. It will need to remain transparent throughout all engagement activities, to grant stakeholders the opportunity to contribute towards the decarbonisation initiatives that they intend to implement across the estate.

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The Council should focus on the following to deliver its Bridgend 2030 Strategy: -

- Continue to engage with departments across the council and produce an internal list of stakeholders to repeatedly engage with.
- Form a '2030 Sub-Committee' to unite carbon leads from each department to ensure a collective approach is achieved across BCBC on a continual basis.
- Communicate with external stakeholders on the continual development of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy up to 2030 itself.

BCBC's Mobilisation & Management Initiatives

The following table outlines the mobilisation and management initiatives that the Council will adopt to ensure action is taken to achieve decarbonisation across the organisation by 2030.

1	A Decarbonisation Programme Board will remain in place to oversee the implementation of the Bridgend Net Zero Strategy.
2	A 'Decarbonisation Programme Manager' will remain in place as a dedicated role to drive the focussed implementation of the Bridgend Net Zero Strategy.
3	A '2030 Steering Group' will be formed to bring together carbon leads from each activity stream to ensure a joined-up approach is achieved across the Council.
4	Communities of Practice and Carbon leads will be appointed for each activity stream and will be responsible for reviewing progress against action plans and reporting back to the 'Decarbonisation Programme Board'.
5	The Action Plans will form the basis of how the Council will reach Net Zero – action plans will be reviewed and updated annually.
6	The Council will enable successful implementation of the Net Zero Strategy by identifying additional resources and finance for delivery through a robust business planning regime to scale up and accelerate implementation of initiatives.

7	A ring-fenced financial allocation will be created for decarbonisation. This will be used for developing specific projects and levering in additional external finance.
8	The Council will include a defined mission statement on its decarbonisation ambitions as a distinct corporate objective; CMB, CCMB and Council Boards will give high importance to decarbonisation in all investment decisions.
9	The Council will issue a revision of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy in 2027 to update against the rapidly changing landscape of the decarbonisation sector.
10	The Council will engage with departments in the council to produce an internal list of stakeholders to support collaboration and share expertise across all activity areas on Net Zero.
11	The Council will communicate and collaborate with external stakeholders (e.g. health board and local service board) on the progress of the Strategy.

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Appendix 2 – Bridgend 2030 Action Plans

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2030 Actions Plans

This appendix contains 4 Actions Plans that will deliver the Bridgend 2030 Strategy and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the organisation in order to get to a Net Zero Position by the 1st of April 2030. Each Action Plan will have a Corporate Manager as Senior Responsible Officer and will report on the progress of the Action Plan to the 2030 Programme Board.

These include the following: -

- Action Plan 1 – Behaviour Change
- Action Plan 2 – Estates
- Action Plan 3 – Procurement
- Action Plan 4 – Fleet

It is the intention to review these plans annually in order to track the progress against the carbon baseline, monitor effectiveness, resource appropriately and include new initiatives, technology and projects as they arise.

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Action Plan 1 – Behaviour Change

To achieve Net Zero emissions a complete culture shift will be required across all council operations. The Council recognises that a joined-up approach is needed, and all departments will need to work together to achieve the decarbonisation goals. Carbon impact and sustainability will become a key metric in the decision-making process. The following table outlines the initiatives the Council will undertake to implement effective carbon management across the organisation.

Carbon Management Initiatives

BC1	Implement a comprehensive sustainability decision-making approach (see, for example, Cornwall Council's doughnut economics) to be included in all council business cases for investment, integrated with the wellbeing of future generations assessment. Integrate carbon costs into the decision-making process.
BC2	Develop an internal engagement plan strategically linked to Strategy initiatives, e.g. upskilling building managers to improve building energy use, educating building managers about the waste hierarchy and educating Directorates and service areas about sustainable procurement practices.
BC3	Continue to expand carbon literacy training for elected members and officers, prioritising officers who will support the delivery of the Strategy.
BC4	Ensure all Leads and members of the Community of Practices have their job descriptions updated to include defined responsibilities relating to the Strategy.
BC5	Utilise the Welsh Government Public Sector Carbon Reporting Guide to report annually the carbon footprints of the Council's operations. This will form the basis for tracking progress against the Net Zero 2030 target.
BC6	The Council will complete a business travel review to appraise the use of staff vehicles, pool cars and public transport across all departments; Council business travel policies will be updated accordingly.

BC7	The Council's staff business travel policy will prioritise the use of virtual meetings, active travel and public transport.
BC8	The Council will undertake a detailed review of staff commuting patterns to better understand the impact on its overall carbon footprint; guidance and incentive schemes will be considered to support staff. Use a staff survey to review commuting patterns and track progress against the Welsh Government's 30% work from home target.

Action Plan 2 – Estates

Carbon emissions associated with the operation of buildings represents the second biggest contributor to the Council's carbon footprint, behind the procurement of goods and services.

The Council will focus on improving energy efficiency and developing onsite generation projects throughout the estate to effectively decarbonise this area. The initiatives will ensure coordination of emission reduction actions within the Corporate Landlord service area, with a particular focus on:

- Managing the ongoing energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across the estate, collating a full asset and condition list of energy-consuming equipment.
- Delivering renewable energy and offsetting opportunities on Council-owned and neighbouring land.

The approach to new buildings should also be addressed. The closer a new building can be built to Net Zero standards now mitigates the need for additional retrofit projects down the line.

Estates Initiatives

E1	The Council will prioritise the completion of a centralised asset register. For each site, the register will include details of the energy system, including a unique system ID, system type and age, historical energy consumption, and records of any decarbonisation works undertaken. For renewable energy assets (e.g. solar farms), the register should also capture generation capacity (kW) and availability (%).

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E2	The Council will progress a transformational energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across its estate – every building will have undergone a multi-technology energy efficiency upgrade by 2030.
E3	The Council will undertake and commission surveys to collate a full asset and conditions list of major energy-consuming equipment (e.g. large plant) across its built estate by the end of 2026.
E4	The Council will complete expert low carbon heat studies for all large strategic sites to set the plan to transition away from fossil fuel heat sources.
E5	Decommissioning of traditional boilers will be preferred over replacement, with low carbon heat solutions appraised and prioritised within the business case process.
E6	Legacy lighting will only be replaced with modern LED alternatives; all lighting will be LED by 2030.
E7	All buildings will be assessed to have standardised, effective building management systems including a dedicated central resource to optimise energy use across the built estate on a consistent basis.
E8	The Council will complete surveys to understand the overall viable potential for onsite renewable energy generation across the estate. The council should aim to install as much of this potential by 2030.
E9	The Council will work closely with schools to develop a plan to better deliver carbon reduction in these buildings.
E10	The Council will improve its understanding of all owned land assets to correctly appreciate the levels of carbon sequestration by September 2026 and develop plans to maximise carbon benefits in these areas

E11	The Council will ensure all owned woodland and greenfield areas are maintained in a way to promote enhanced biodiversity and avoid any unnecessary loss of carbon sequestration.
E12	Where large-scale renewable developments are not possible, the Council will prioritise these areas for afforestation/reforestation and biodiversity programmes on its own land.
E13	The Council will undertake an assessment to understand the extent of peatland across its estate; a continual maintenance and regeneration programme will be put in place for any identified areas.
E14	Work with partners to map and review Council-owned land to identify categories that align with the Net Zero Reporting commitment

Action Plan 3 – Fleet

Carbon emissions from transport are one of the highest emitters across Council operations. Transport includes emissions from owned fleet, business travel and commuting. To decarbonise transport, the Council will need to prioritise introducing ULEVs into their fleet and across Bridgend in the short term. This will require the development of a best-practice approach for ULEVs and public vehicle EV charging stations.

Fleet Initiatives

F1	The Council will oversee the development of a best practice approach for ULEV technology across the Council's own fleet and staff vehicles. The Council will seek support from WGES on ULEV and EV transition planning and implementation.
F2	Develop an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate, using lessons learnt on progress already made in the Highways team to inform progress in other service areas, with particular focus on social care and education.

F3	EVs will be prioritised as replacements for Council-owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2028.
F4	All new medium/large freight vehicles procured across the Council after April 2027 will be to the future modern standard of ULEVs.
F5	Review and track fuel used in small plant and equipment to understand their carbon footprint and what assets can be replaced with electric versions.

Action Plan 4 – Procurement

It is estimated that emissions that occurred from procured goods & services is the largest contributor to the Councils carbon footprint (71%) so it is a priority area on which to focus decarbonisation activity. It should be noted that all Local Authorities are seeing a similar proportion of total emissions from procurement. Decarbonising supply chain emissions represent the biggest challenge across the whole public sector in achieving Net Zero.

Extra resource is needed in the procurement team to coordinate a more sustainable approach to Directorate procurement exercises and improve the Council's supply chain emissions reporting. The following table outlines the initiatives that the Council will implement to reduce emissions associated with procured goods & services.

Procurement Initiatives

P1	The Council will develop a Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice to include a framework for assessing the sustainability credentials of suppliers at varying contract values and types; this will consider the evolving Welsh Procurement Policy Notes (WPPN).
P2	The Council will aim to engage with and utilise the local and low carbon supply chains whilst maintaining high standards for goods and services. This will be a corporate initiative and not just the responsibility of the procurement team.
P3	The Council will build upon WPPN 06/21 and require carbon management plans/decarbonisation improvement to be demonstrated in the highest carbon

	impact and strategic contracts by 2026, this will include contracts as they come to be procured associated with 'Transit & Ground Passenger Transport Services' and 'Nursing & Residential Care Services'.
P4	The Council will apply the principles of 'WPPN 12/21 Decarbonisation through Procurement', to an increasing proportion of contracts such that by 2030, all contracts above an agreed value are subject to carbon assessment and reporting.
P5	The Council, through its Economic Development function, will engage with its supply chain to communicate its ambition for Net Zero and the request for suppliers to come on the journey; the Council will share its developing procurement practice, resources for suppliers, and any opportunities for supply chain decarbonisation funding.
P6	The Council will provide a training programme for internal service commissioners by developing best practice and engaging experts; the Council procurement and service commissioners will work in collaboration to champion decarbonisation in the supply chain.
P7	Contract management will be used to oversee decarbonisation progress and carbon accounting in both short- and long-term contracts, this will be overseen by the BCBC Programme Board and reported to Corporate Management Board (CMB) as required.
P8	The Council recognises the need for a regional and national approach and will identify other organisations and forums for collaboration across Wales to help develop its understanding and take note from best practice approaches, particularly regarding how to introduce changes to procurement processes resulting from the Procurement Act 2023, such as the WLGA Procurement Task and Finish Group.
P9	Prioritise enabling a move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 supply chain emissions reporting. Engage with work being done by the Welsh Government Energy Service to develop a supplier contract emissions reporting tool.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STRATEGY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**GROUP MANAGER ECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon existing policy framework or procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	**This report is to bring forward a draft Strategy to seek approval to go out to public consultation on the vision for electric vehicle charging across Bridgend County Borough Council.** **The draft Strategy offers options and opportunities available to Bridgend County Borough Council on facilitating a transition to the use on non fossil fuel vehicles and our journey towards net zero.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on work to develop a draft Bridgend County Borough Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and to seek approval to undertake public consultation on the draft Strategy.

2. Background

2.1 The United Kingdom (UK) Government has pledged to achieve net zero emissions across all transport modes by 2050, as detailed in the documents 'Decarbonising Transport: A Better Greener Britain' and 'Powering up Britain'.

2.2 The 'Taking Charge' plan outlines a national strategy for implementing Electric Vehicle (EV) charge point infrastructure. The goal is to eliminate barriers to EV adoption by making charge points more affordable and convenient, ensuring that everyone can easily find and access reliable public charge points with both on-street and off-street options.

2.3 In September 2023, the UK Government announced that new petrol and diesel cars and vans can continue to be sold until 2035, extending the previous deadline which required all new car and vans to be zero emission at the tailpipe by 2030.

2.4 The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 aim to enhance the EV user experience by setting standards for contactless payment.

2.5 The Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have committed to delivery of Wales' target of net zero by 2050.

2.6 Welsh Government published an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy in 2022, which sets out an objective that 'by 2025, all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can access electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it'. Wales' EV strategy followed from UK government guidance.

2.7 It is considered that The Welsh Government position on EV charging is synonymous with UK Government, with a targeted transition to EV being central to transport decarbonisation, removing charging infrastructure as a perceived and real barrier to EV adoption.

2.8 At a local level, Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) existing policies have net-zero ambitions and sustainability embedded within them, which it is suggested will enable and support the delivery of any Bridgend County Borough Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

2.9 In 2024 Bridgend County Borough Council was chosen as one of 7 councils to be the first to received grant funding from Welsh Government for the creation of an EV strategy that would be created by Transport for Wales and AECOM.

2.10 Working with AECOM and Transport for Wales, an internal officer working group was established in October 2024 to collaborate in the development of a draft Strategy.

2.11 The working group has met twice and has included 17officers from multiple necessary and influential areas within Bridgend County Borough Council such as members from our Highway's team, Active travel Team, Street Lighting and many more. The draft Strategy also went to the Decarbonisation Program Board

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 Since 2019, local authorities across Wales have delivered over 100 EV charging projects, with commercial Charge Point Operators (CPOs) delivering many times more. Progress has been supported by Transport for Wales' (TfW) early interventions to ensure the most rural sites on the Strategic Road Network had rapid chargers, building on the base network to ensure 50kW charging at least every 25 miles.

3.2 Within Bridgend County Borough, BCBC has already delivered a number of chargers over more than 30 sites, and there are more than 2,900 electric vehicles now registered in the County. The County currently has 12 public charge points that have been commissioned by the Council, 52 that have been commissioned by the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) on our estate as well as public, alongside an additional 44 chargers that are operated independently at locations, such as supermarkets.

3.3 The purpose of the draft Bridgend County Borough Council EV Strategy **(Appendix 1**) is to set out a vision and plans for delivering an inclusive charging network in the future, building on work to date.

3.4 The vision is to facilitate and enable the provision of accessible, reliable and inclusive EV charge points across urban, rural and coastal areas, which is fairly priced, to all residents, visitors and businesses.

3.5 The aims are:

- The further development of an EV charging network
- Fair and accessible access to charge points
- An inclusive high-quality experience
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Working with public charge points operators to best benefit the residents of Bridgend

3.6 The objectives are:

- Increase awareness and knowledge of EVs across the County
- Develop a network of public charge points ensuring appropriate coverage of the right type of charge points across the County
- Ensure the EV charge points network is inclusive, reliable and accessible
- Develop an EV charge point network which is sustainable economically, technically and fairly priced for users
- Facilitate a transition to EVs for both private and commercial users while encouraging walking and cycling reducing car ownership and car mode share

3.7 The role of the Council is summarised as being to:

- Promote Equity: Provide charging infrastructure in underserved and rural areas to ensure all communities have access to EV charging, promoting a fair transition to EVs.

- Support Local Businesses: Install charging points in commercial areas to attract EV drivers, boosting local businesses and encouraging economic growth.

- Leverage Public Assets: Utilise council-owned properties, such as car parks and public buildings, to host charging stations, optimising the use of existing resources.

- Encourage Private Investment: Create a favourable environment for private sector investment in EV infrastructure by demonstrating the council's commitment and providing initial support.

3.8 The draft Bridgend County Borough Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (**Appendix 1**) considers the following elements which will provide the context for decision making and action moving forward:

- **Forecasting** - Modelling has been carried out using a best practice EV uptake forecast tool, to forecast the future number of EVs in the Bridgend area. As with any projection methodology these forecasts should be taken as indicative estimates which will need to be revisited and updated as and when new information becomes available.
  The EV uptake scenarios define the proportion of new vehicle sales each year which are EV. Three scenarios are represented by the tool and are represented as slow, medium or fast electrification of the vehicle parc (e.g. all vehicles on the road). Similarly, adoption scenarios are set out as low, medium and high.
- **Chargepoint speeds** – the Strategy highlights that these range from "slow" (3-7kW) to "ultra-rapid" (>100kW). The type of charge point needed depends on the location. It is suggested that at homes or workplaces, where people spend longer periods, slower charge points may be considered more suitable. Conversely, rapid and ultra-rapid charge points are considered more suitable for destinations or on-route charging, such as motorway services or visitor hotspots including beach resorts like Porthcawl, alongside parks.
- **Charging types** – The Strategy considers the following options: wireless, cable gully, pop-up and lamppost with perceived advantages and disadvantages of each set out.
- **Strategic approaches** – residential, hub-based and blend models are considered with implications presented.
- **Delivery models** – the Strategy considers own and operate, joint venture, public/private/commercial partnership, land lease and Transport for Wales supply/install models whilst reviewing factors relating to the potential control by BCBC and the potential risks.

3.9 The Strategy sets out the following priority action areas, each with a range of sub-actions and details on the role of BCBC and proposed timescale:

- Increase awareness and knowledge of EVs across the County
- Develop a network of public charge points that achieve appropriate levels of coverage
- Ensure the EV charge point network is inclusive, reliable and accessible
- Develop and EV charge point network which is sustainable economically, technically and fairly priced for users
- Facilitate a transition to EVs for both private and commercial users while encouraging waking and cycling, reducing car ownership and car mode share

3.10 It is proposed that Cabinet consider the draft EV Charging Strategy **(Appendix 1)** and approve a public consultation on the Strategy. It is also proposed that a further report be presented to Cabinet following public consultation of an anticipated 8-10 week period seeking approval of the Strategy.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 This project aligns with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, supporting a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future. Below is a summary of how the five ways of working under the Act have been applied in the development and implementation of the Residential EV Charge Points Scheme.

- Long Term - The scheme addresses immediate infrastructure needs for electric vehicle (EV) adoption while laying the groundwork for a low-carbon future. It supports a strategic transition away from fossil fuels, recognising the long-term environmental and societal benefits of reduced emissions, improved air quality, and sustainable transport access. By making EV charging more accessible today, it helps ensure future generations inherit a healthier environment and a more resilient transport system.

- Prevention - The project proactively reduces the environmental and public health issues associated with petrol and diesel vehicles. It helps prevent worsening air pollution, noise pollution, and climate change impacts by facilitating a shift to cleaner transport modes. Early investment in EV infrastructure also mitigates future economic pressure to retrofit or correct inequitable access to charging, ensuring that sustainability and inclusion are addressed from the outset

- Integration - The scheme supports economic, social, environmental, and health goals collectively. It contributes to decarbonisation targets, enhances public health through improved air quality, supports financial well-being through reduced transport costs, and promotes inclusive access to technology. This integrated approach helps meet multiple well-being objectives in tandem and aligns with national and local sustainability targets, benefiting both current and future communities.

- Collaboration - The scheme has been developed and implemented through collaboration with internal departments, local authorities, and external stakeholders such as EV suppliers and community organisations. This cooperative approach ensures that the infrastructure is both technically sound and socially equitable. Ongoing partnerships continue to support broader climate and mobility goals across sectors.

- Involvement - The project has engaged with residents, community groups, and stakeholders across diverse demographic and geographic areas to ensure inclusive access to EV infrastructure. Special focus has been given to underrepresented and lower-income communities to prevent disparities in access. This ensures the scheme reflects the diversity of the population and fosters shared ownership of the transition to sustainable transport.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The Residential EV Charge point scheme is designed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) which produce far fewer emissions compared to traditional petrol or diesel vehicles. By encouraging a shift to EVs, the scheme supports both local and national efforts to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets contributing meaningfully to the broader fight against climate change.

6.2 In addition to lowering emissions, the scheme promotes cleaner energy use and reduces dependence on fossil fuels thereby minimising the waste generated through their extraction and consumption. This helps address the transport sector's substantial contribution to environmental waste. Furthermore, by replacing internal combustion engine vehicles with EVs the project lessens harmful by-products such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, leading to improved air quality.

6.3 The scheme also positively affects biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The reduced use of fossil fuels helps protect water sources from pollution caused by runoff from spills, while the quieter operation of EVs leads to a noticeable decrease in noise pollution benefiting both human communities and wildlife. Improved air and noise conditions support healthier ecosystems and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Overall the scheme takes a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability, delivering tangible benefits to both local environments and broader ecological systems.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding or Corporate Parent implications associated with this report in line with the risks identified in the Safeguarding Policy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The development of the Strategy is funded via an external grant.

8.2 The co-ordination of the officer working group and monitoring of delivery will be supported via existing funds within the Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability Service.

8.3 For the majority of our EV charge points, Bridgend County Borough Council works with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and charge point operators to identify suitable locations to deliver new EV charge points across the County. CCR are responsible for the delivery of these charge points and for their day-to-day operation.

8.4 For the 12 current Council commissioned EV ChargePoint sites at leisure centres across the County, these were grant funded have been delivered separately to the CCR charge points using an 'Own & Operate' contract model.

8.5 Where BCBC own and operate EV chargers across its estate, some are available for public use as well as BCBC fleet and others only agreed for BCBC fleet. Public users can charge via a mobile phone app and pay 50p/kWh and BCBC fleet utilise a "card" device that logs the electricity used and this is recharged to that vehicle department. The cost is 25p/kWh. These tariffs were set a year ago and where relevant mirror the CCR charge rate. As BCBC electricity tariffs change over time these charges will be kept under review and revisions considered as appropriate.

8.6 Section 8 of the Strategy sets out a range of potential future funding options available to local authorities, private accommodation and workplaces and businesses.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1 Consider the draft Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (Appendix 1) and approve public consultation on the Strategy;

9.2 Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the public consultation seeking approval of the Strategy.

Background documents

None.

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Bridgend Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

Draft, December 2024

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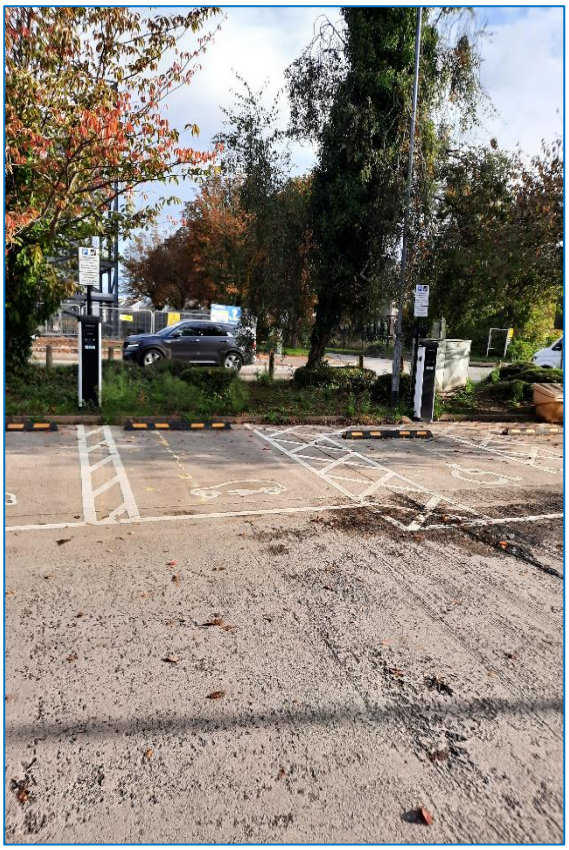
Glossary

Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)	A vehicle powered entirely by electricity stored in batteries.
Charge Point Operator (CPO)	An entity responsible for the operation and maintenance of EV charging stations.
Department for Transport (DfT)	The UK government department responsible for transport policy and regulation.
Distribution Network Operator (DNO)	A company that operates the electricity distribution network in a specific area.
Electric Vehicle (EV)	A vehicle that uses one or more electric motors for propulsion.
Kilowatt (kW)	A unit of power equal to 1,000 watts.
Kilowatt per hour (kWh)	A unit of energy representing one kilowatt of power used for one hour.
Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP)	A strategic plan for energy infrastructure and services within a local area.
Light Goods Vehicle (LGV)	A commercial vehicle with a gross weight of 3,500 kilograms or less, such as a van or pick-up truck.
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	A vehicle that can be powered by both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor, with batteries that can be recharged by plugging into an external source.
Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV)	A vehicle that produces no tailpipe emissions.

Executive Summary

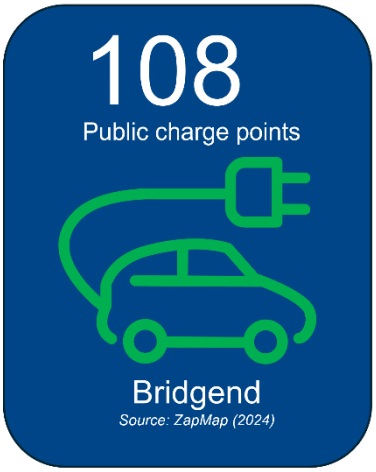
Bridgend County Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2020, committing to become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030, and targeting net zero carbon emissions across the borough by 2040. Transport remains the largest domestic sector for emissions in the UK at more than 25%, with Bridgend attributing 51% of its emissions to transport. Transitioning to cleaner road transport is crucial for the UK to meet its net zero emissions target by 2050. The recent surge in both the supply and demand for Electric Vehicles (EVs) has highlighted charging infrastructure as the primary challenge to this goal.



This draft EV Strategy has been created to facilitate a scalable shift to Zero Emission Vehicles over the 5 years to 2030, as part of Bridgend's commitment to addressing the climate emergency. This strategy aligns with the Welsh Government's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, which aims to ensure that by 2025, all users of electric cars and vans in Wales can access charging infrastructure when and where they need it. We are committed to consulting on this draft EV Strategy in 2025 and use the actions to support our funding applications to Welsh Government which will "turbo-boost" investment and delivery of EV infrastructure in Bridgend.

Bridgend's strategy aims to provide accessible, reliable, and inclusive EV charging infrastructure for all residents, visitors, and businesses. This ensures that everyone will have access to dependable, inclusive and affordable EV charging facilities.

This strategy includes an action plan detailing how the EV strategy will be implemented, supporting the delivery of our key objectives and the realisation of our vision. Proposed actions for each objective are categorised over the next 3-5 years.



Bridgend have been actively increasing its public EV charging network over recent years, particularly in public community spaces such as leisure facilities, and are committed to developing this network further. The County currently has 12 public chargepoints that have been commissioned by the Council, 52 that have been commissioned by the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), alongside an additional 44 chargers that are operated independently at locations such as supermarkets.

The main focus for the next five years is delivering a public charging network aimed at residents, with the right types of chargers in the right locations.

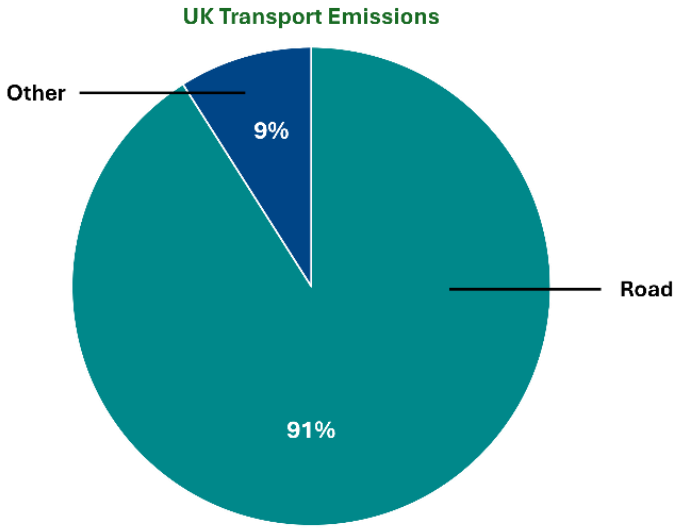
1. The purpose of this strategy

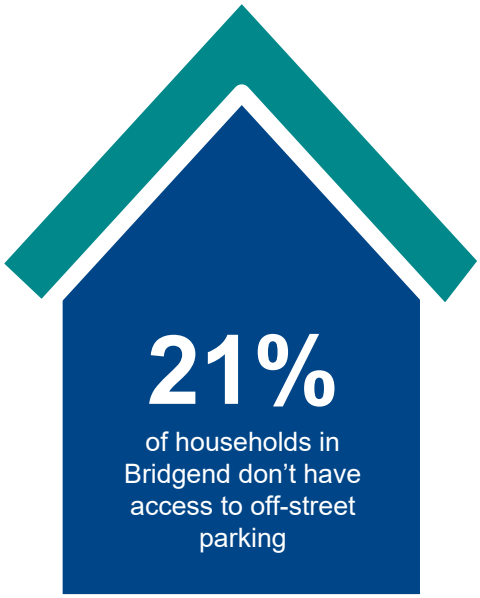
Bridgend County Borough Council is **committed** to delivering an **accessible** and **affordable** EV chargepoint network for everyone who lives, works and visits Bridgend. This is in line with our 2030 commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority, and our 2040 commitment for net zero carbon emissions across the borough by 2040, supporting our Net Zero Carbon Strategy. This will involve enhancing the EVCI provision across the County, building on the more than 60 chargers already delivered by us and CCR.

The purpose of this strategy is to set out our vision and plans for delivering an inclusive charging network by 2030, so that we can get your feedback and secure the necessary public and private funding to meet our future needs. This includes using the actions to support our funding request to Welsh Government to "turbo-boost" delivery of EV infrastructure in Bridgend.

In the UK, transport is the largest emitting domestic sector, with road transport accounting for the majority of these emissions. In order for the UK to achieve the UK governments mandate of net zero emissions by 2050, there needs to be widespread transport decarbonisation.

In order to support and facilitate this transition to EV and encourage EV adoption, an expansion of public EV charging infrastructure in Bridgend is required. EVs will play a crucial role in supporting transport decarbonisation, although this is only one part of Bridgend's and Wales' approach to tackling transport emissions.





Bridgend has a large variety of housing types, with the more urban areas of Bridgend town centre, Maesteg, Pontycymer, Ogmore Vale, alongside some areas of the coastal resort of Porthcawl, having greater proportions of dense terraced housing that typically do not have access to off street parking. The delivery of accessible and convenient public charging infrastructure is key to overcoming barriers to EV adoption and encouraging EV uptake. It is important that no household is left behind in the transition to transport decarbonisation and that all households have equitable access to the Bridgend EV public chargepoint network.

This Draft EV Strategy has been developed in collaboration with Bridgend County Borough Council officers, council members and key stakeholders. We will continue to update and engage with these stakeholders throughout implementation of the strategy to ensure that the needs of those who live, work and visit Bridgend are considered. The EV Strategy is underpinned by previous experience gained through the delivery of public EV chargepoints and best practice from other local authorities developing an EV Strategy.

Our vision for EV charging in Bridgend

Our strategy is built on a vision, alongside clear aims and objectives, to successfully deliver EV chargepoint infrastructure over the next three to five years up to 2030. Our ambitions do not stop then and Bridgend County Borough Council will review progress against the planned actions in the Strategy by 2030.

Our Vision

To facilitate and enable the provision of accessible, reliable, and inclusive Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoints across urban, rural and coastal areas, which is fairly priced, to all residents, visitors and businesses.

Aims

1) The further development of an EV charging network
2) Fair and accessible access to chargepoints
3) An inclusive high-quality experience
4) Reduced carbon emissions
5) Working with public chargepoint operators to best benefit the residents of Bridgend

Objectives

1. Increase awareness and knowledge of EVs across the county
2. Develop a network of public chargepoints ensuring appropriate coverage of the right type of chargepoints across the county
3. Ensure the EV chargepoint network is inclusive, reliable and accessible
4. Develop an EV chargepoint network which is sustainable economically, technically and fairly priced for users
5. Facilitate a transition to EVs for both private and commercial users while encouraging walking and cycling reducing car ownership and car mode share

2. What is driving the EV transition?

Political

In order to achieve the Council's ambition to be a net zero Council by 2030.

Environmental

EVs are a crucial part of reducing the transport sectors UK greenhouse gas emissions.

Community

Reducing air pollution will benfit public health and investing in public chargepoints will support a fair transition.

Technological

Consumers have a wider choice of EVs as vehicle manufactuers ramp up production alongside a growing second hand EV market.

Regulatory

The UKs net zero target by 2050 is legally binding and the Zero Emission Vehicle Madate comes into force from 2035.

Economic impact

Local benefits range from job creation and chargepoints can help attract visitors and tourists to destinations.

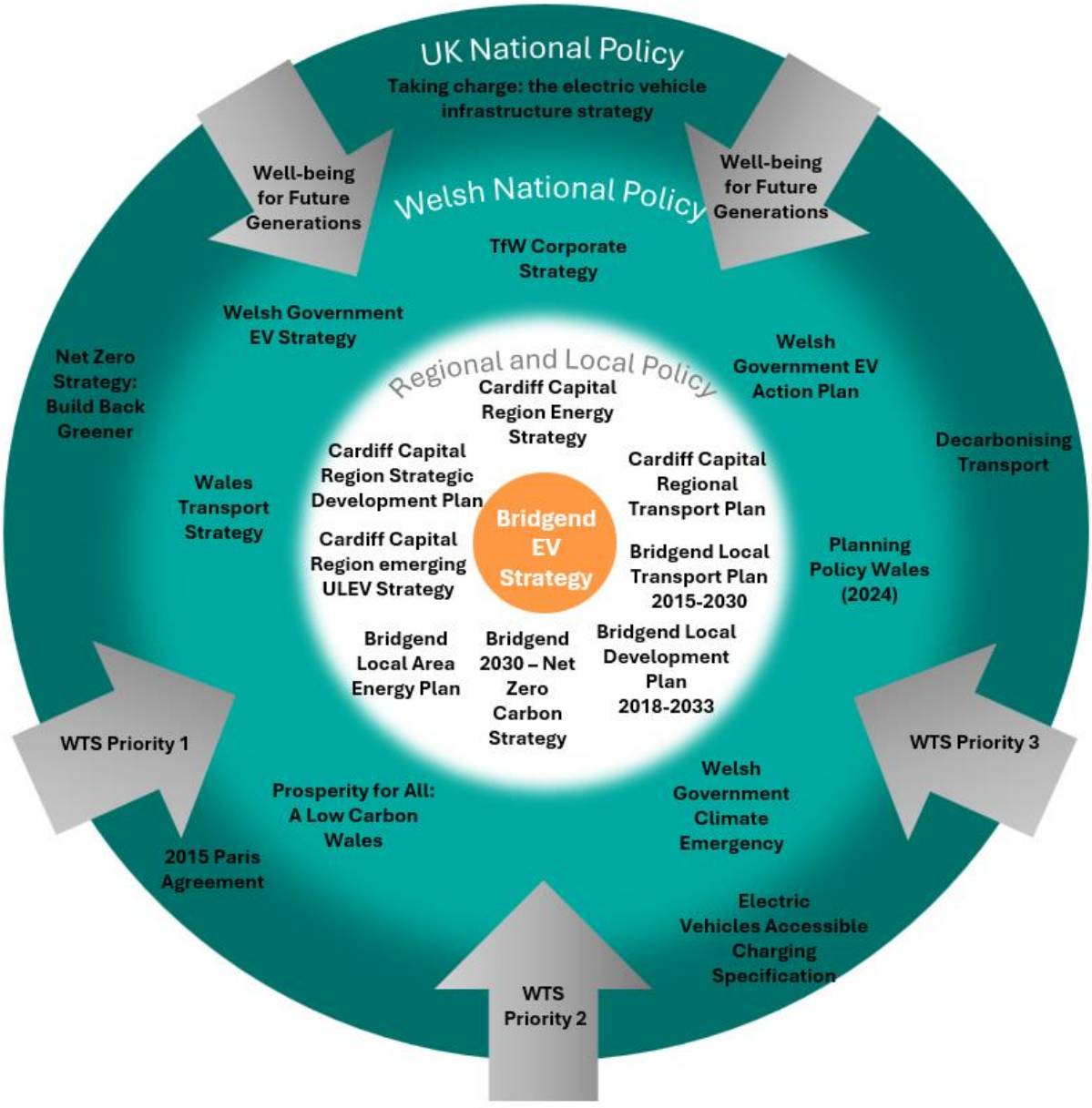
3. Where are we now?

Bridgend's draft EV strategy is building on the ambitions, commitments and progress of the UK and Welsh Governments (see Figure 1). Since 2019, local authorities across Wales have delivered over 100 EV charging projects, with commercial Charge Point Operators (CPOs) delivering many times more. This was supported by Transport for Wales' (TfW) early interventions to ensure the most rural sites on the Strategic Road Network had rapid chargers, building on the base network to ensure 50kW charging at least every 25 miles.

Across the County, we have already delivered more than 60 chargers over more than 30 sites, and there are more than 2,900 electric vehicles now registered in our area.

Policy position

Figure 1 National, Regional and Local Policy Context

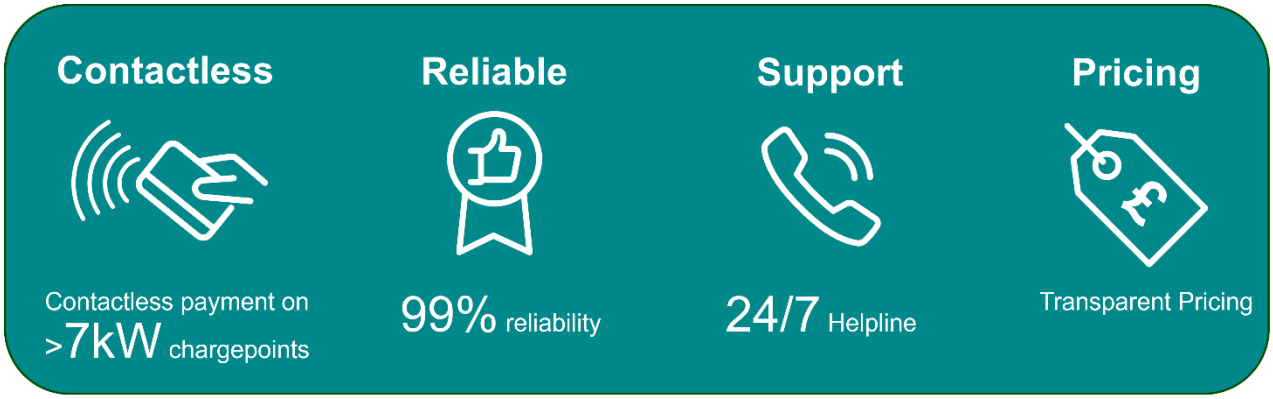


UK National Policy

The UK Government has pledged to achieve net zero emissions across all transport modes by 2050, as detailed in the documents 'Decarbonising Transport: A Better Greener Britain' and 'Powering up Britain'.

The 'Taking Charge' plan outlines a national strategy for implementing EV chargepoint infrastructure. The goal is to eliminate barriers to EV adoption by making chargepoints more affordable and convenient, ensuring that everyone can easily find and access reliable public chargepoints with both on-street and off-street options. In September 2023, the UK Government announced that new petrol and diesel cars and vans can continue to be sold until 2035, extending the previous deadline which required all new car and vans to be zero emission at the tailpipe by 2030.

The 'Public Chargepoint Regulations' introduced in 2023 aim to enhance the EV user experience by setting standards for contactless payment. These include:



Welsh Government Policy

Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have committed to delivery of Wales' target of net zero by 2050. Wales' EV strategy followed from UK government guidance, with a host of other policy documents that support or relate to this EV strategy as demonstrated in Figure 1.

Welsh Government published an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy in 2022, which sets out an objective that ***'by 2025, all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can access electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it'***

The Welsh Government position on EV charging is synonymous with Central Government messaging and policy around the topic, with a targeted transition to EV being central to transport decarbonisation, removing charging infrastructure as a perceived and real barrier to EV adoption.

Local Policy

Both Cardiff Capital Region and Bridgend County Borough Council's existing policies have net-zero ambitions and sustainability embedded within them, which will support the emerging Bridgend EV strategy. CCR's emerging ULEV Strategy seeks to reduce emissions and improve charging infrastructure, with a reduction in road transport emissions of 60% by 2035 across the region targeted as part of the CCR Energy Strategy.

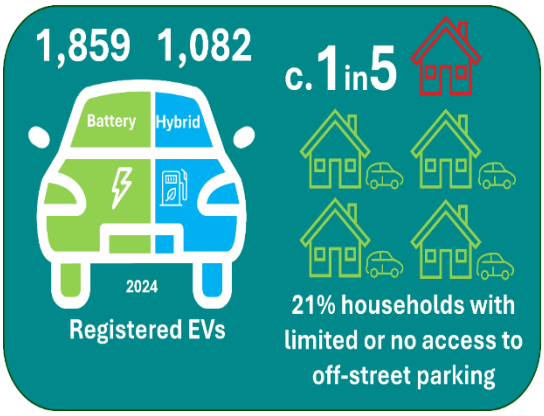
The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)se has been actively involved in advancing the Strategic Development Plan (SDP), which is currently at the delivery agreement stage, and the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), which is out for consultation.

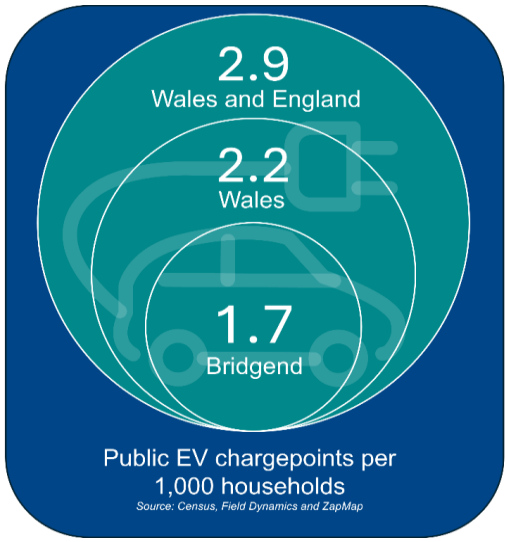
Further information on relevant policy from the UK Government, Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council is outlined in Appendix A.

Current progress

To date, public EV charging deployment that has been led by Bridgend County Borough Council has been focused on public places such as council owned car parks in leisure centres and facilities. This has created 12 EV chargepoints across these locations. There are also 52 chargepoints that have been installed by CCR at a number of Council car parks and on-street locations.

Chargepoints are also available at a variety of private premises such as the supermarkets in Bridgend and Maesteg. These provide a combined total of 108 public EV chargepoints across Bridgend at present.

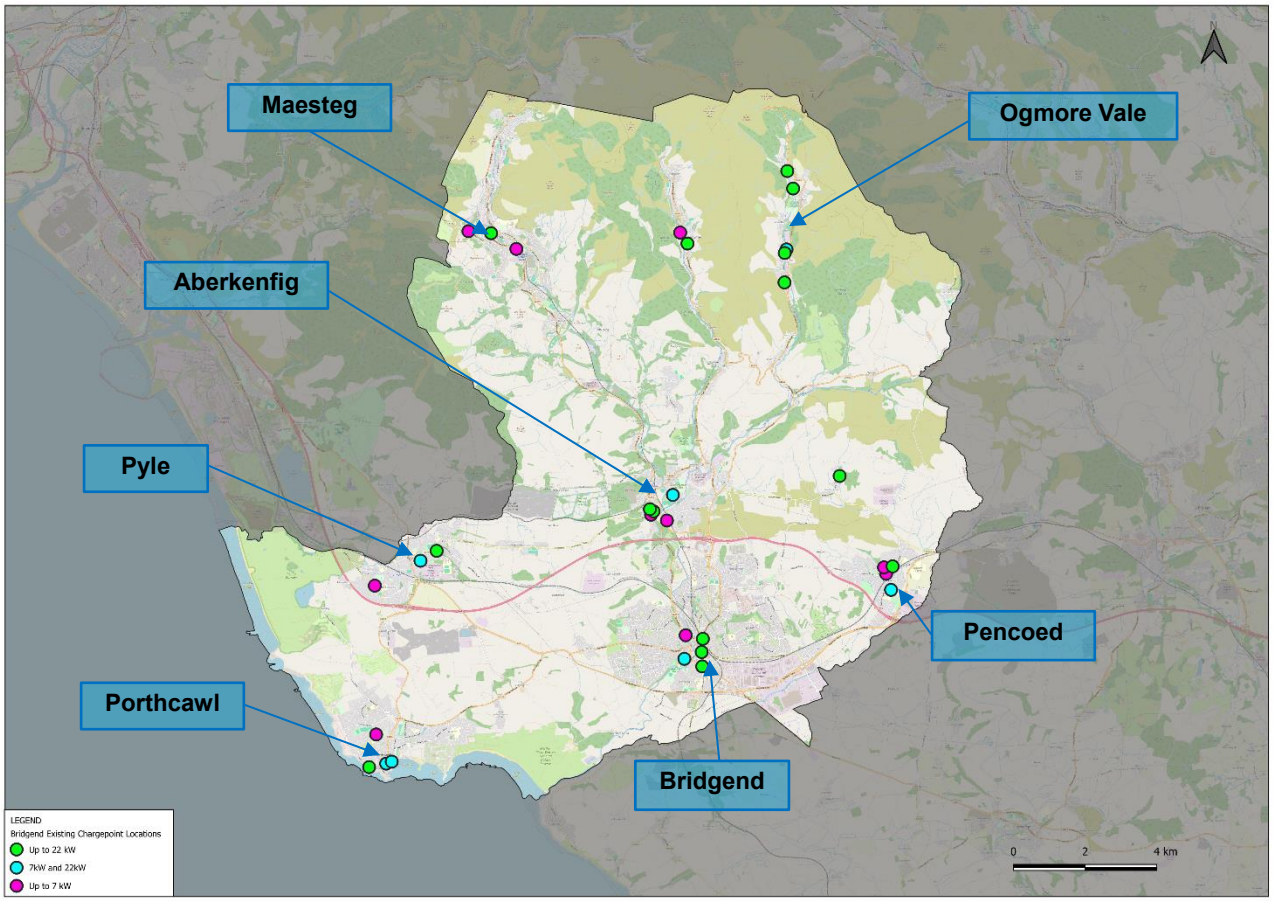




Existing infrastructure, which includes two chargepoints at each of the 6 sites mapped in Figure 2, has been commissioned by Bridgend County Borough Council and are operated by a private operator on our behalf. All current chargepoints are slow to fast chargers that deliver up to 7kW only, 7kW and 22kW depending on the socket used and and to 22kW.

Figure 7 in Section 6 provides further information on the types of charging speeds currently available and the potential scenarios best suited to each speed.

Figure 2 Map of Bridgend's Existing Council Commissioned EV Chargepoints

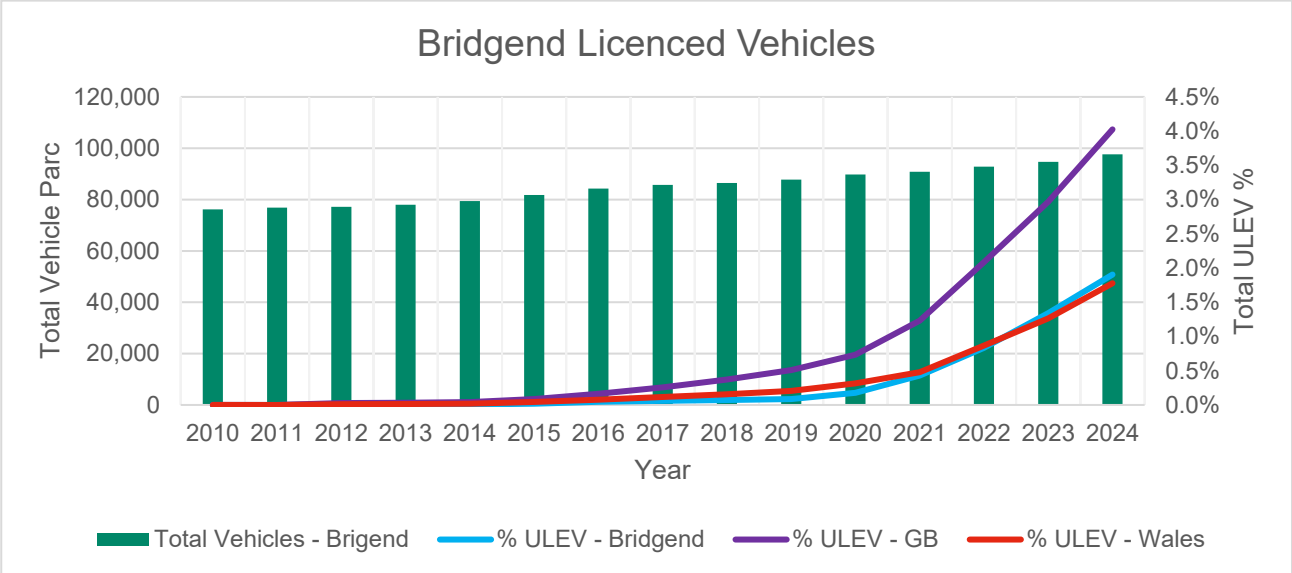


The coverage these Council commissioned chargepoints provide across the County is equivalent to 26% of the population within a 5 minute walk as shown in Figure 3. The chargepoints at Maesteg Row, 2 Heol Llan and Tremains Road Car Park in Bridgend currently serve the greatest number of households, with approximately 1000, 880 and 870 households within a 5 minute walk of each respectively.

Figure 3 Current extent of chargepoint coverage within a 5 minute walk across Bridgend

Understanding how the current chargepoint provision reflects the overall percentage of EVs as a proportion of all vehicle types is also a key consideration. Using registered vehicles across the County, Figure 4 shows an increase in BEVs/PHEVs as a proportion of the overall number of registered vehicles in Bridgend, as well as the Welsh National and Great Britain trends, since 2010. Bridgend is currently falling behind in EV uptake compared to trends across the whole of Great Britain.

Figure 4 Number of registered EVs in Bridgend compared to Great Britain and Wales (correct to the time of writing)



To ensure the number of EVs continue to grow and does not plateau, it is vital there is an equitable network of public EV chargepoints across the Bridgend area which serve the needs of all of those who live, work in, travel through and visit Bridgend.

The role of the Council

Bridgend County Borough Council will play a crucial role in helping our residents, businesses, and visitors make more sustainable travel choices by providing new infrastructure such as additional EV chargepoints. In 2020, we declared a climate emergency, and as part of our response, we are taking steps to reduce transport-related carbon emissions from our services.

As a Council, we must thoughtfully consider the social, financial, and technical aspects and implications of EV charging infrastructure. Numerous stakeholders will play a role in the transition to EVs, and we aim to ensure our actions are supportive and well-coordinated to achieve the best outcomes for the County.

We will carefully select locations for EV chargers, taking into account placemaking principles to avoid street clutter and minimise the impact on heritage assets like listed buildings and conservation areas. This will ensure that our installations enhance the community's environment without detracting from its historical and visual appeal. Engaging with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) early in the process will help us navigate planning permissions and align with local development plans.

Councils are not energy providers and generally lack dedicated budgets for EV charging infrastructure. Therefore, our role is to facilitate the deployment of slow, fast, rapid, and ultra-rapid chargepoints across the County through partnerships with the private sector and government-funded initiatives designed to kickstart the efforts of Councils, businesses, and residents.

This approach will involve direct collaboration with chargepoint operators and other local landowners to identify and establish practical, accessible sites and affordable solutions that can deliver high-quality, reliable charging options for the future.

The role of the Council is summarised as being to:

- **Promote Equity**: Provide charging infrastructure in underserved and rural areas to ensure all communities have access to EV charging, promoting a fair transition to EVs.
- **Support Local Businesses**: Install charging points in commercial areas to attract EV drivers, boosting local businesses and encouraging economic growth.
- **Leverage Public Assets**: Utilise council-owned properties, such as car parks and public buildings, to host charging stations, optimising the use of existing resources.
- **Encourage Private Investment**: Create a favourable environment for private sector investment in EV infrastructure by demonstrating the council’s commitment and providing initial support.

4. Where are we going?

The number of EVs in Bridgend and Wales is expected to continue to rise. This will be accelerated by the UK Government ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles in 2035, with almost all vehicles forecast to be fully electric by 2050.

We have used a best practice EV uptake forecast methodology to develop our aspirations for EV chargepoint growth in Bridgend based on a "medium" uptake scenario to best meet our vision for public EV charging. This will require a total of 332 chargepoints by 2030 to meet the "medium" scenario EV uptake demand (see Figure 6). This equates to an additional 224 public EV chargepoints that will be needed by 2030.

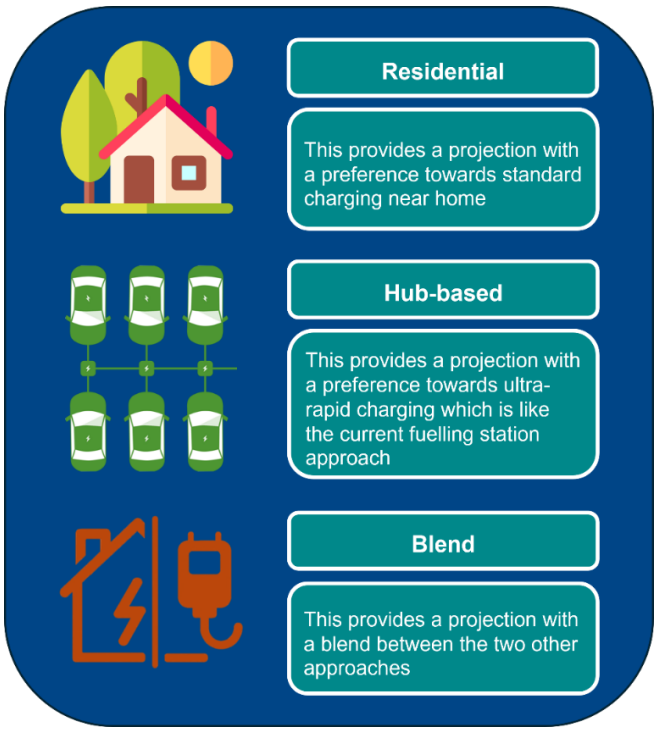
Modelling has been carried out using a best practice EV uptake forecast tool[1], to forecast the future number of EVs in the Bridgend area. As with any projection methodology these forecasts should be taken as indicative estimates which will need to be revisited and updated as and when new information becomes available.

The EV uptake scenarios define the proportion of new vehicle sales each year which are EV. Three scenarios are represented by the tool and are represented as slow, medium or fast electrification of the vehicle parc (e.g. all vehicles on the road). Further detail regarding the forecast uptake methodology can be found in Appendix B.

Utilising DfT vehicle registration and licensing data target points have been added to allow an adoption curve to be constructed from the historic data to the target. These target points are taken from existing policy positions:

- Low: low EV sales up to 80% of all sales by 2030 (70% for commercial vehicles)
- Medium: 2035 ban – 100% of new car and LGV sales are BEV by 2035
- Fast: 2030 ban – 100% of sales are EV by 2030, and 100% BEV by 2035

The forecasts also consider three EVI Strategy approaches:



[1] The National EV Insight & Support (NEVIS) tool. See Appendix B for further information.

Of the three approaches the “medium[2]” approach is being considered by Bridgend as this approach meets our aspirations and vision for public EV chargepoint infrastructure in the area. Details outlining the forecast number of EV vehicles and the expected number of EV chargepoints under the “low” and “fast” uptake scenarios are outlined in Appendix C. The forecasts for the expected vehicle types and associated number of chargepoints required in Bridgend up to 2050 are shown in the figures below. These identify that an additional 18,575 EV vehicles are forecast within Bridgend by 2030, 39,572 by 2035 and 79,377 by 2050. These will require an additional 224 public chargepoints by 2030, 476 by 2035 and 872 by 2050 to serve this increase from current levels.

Figure 5 Forecast Vehicle Types Across Bridgend by 2050

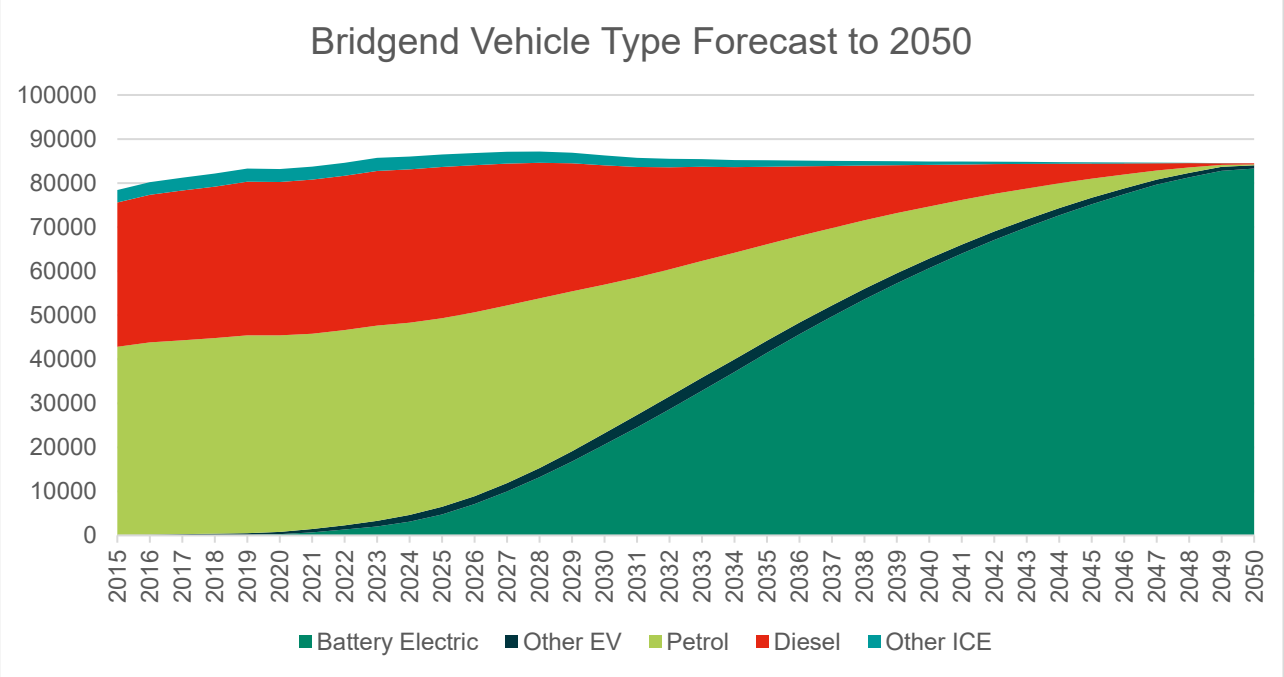
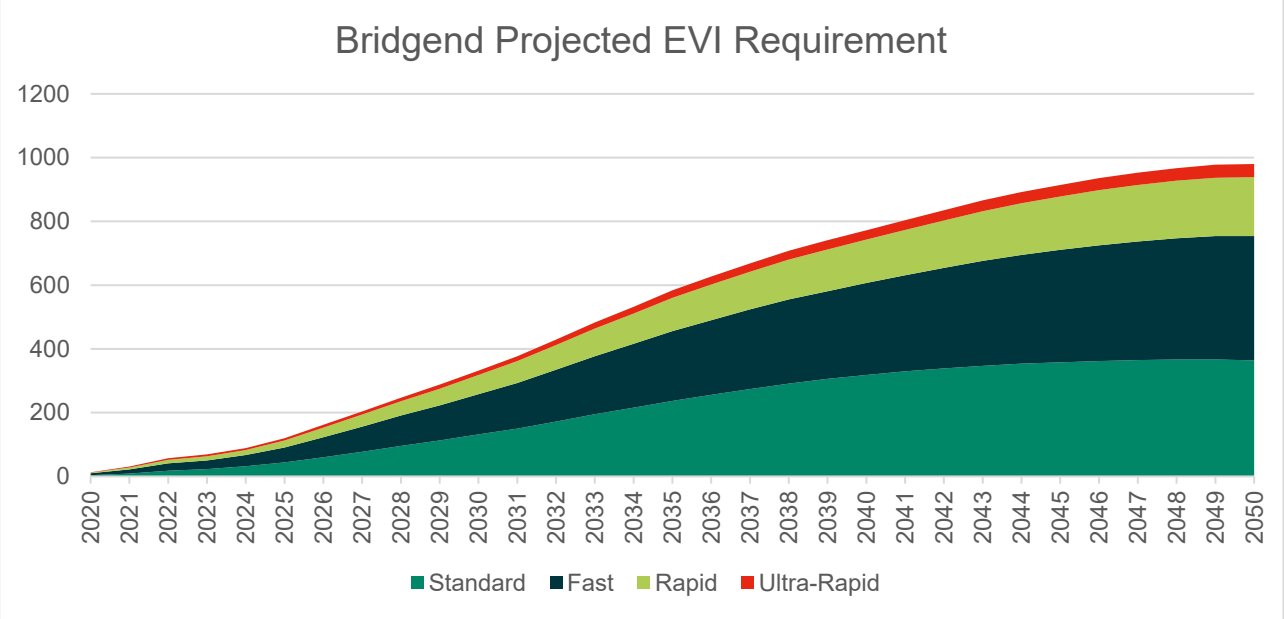


Figure 6 Forecast Required Chargepoints Across Bridgend by 2050



[2] The medium scenario corresponds to the 2035 phase-out of non-EVs

5. What are the drivers and barriers to EV uptake?

Drivers

Environmental Benefits

As a driver, knowing that switching to an EV helps reduce emissions and improve air quality can be a strong motivator. It's a way to contribute to a cleaner environment.

Cost Savings

Over time, EVs can be cheaper to run than petrol or diesel cars due to lower fuel and maintenance costs. Government incentives and grants can also make the initial purchase more affordable.

Technology and Performance

Modern EVs offer impressive performance, with quick acceleration and a quiet, smooth ride. The latest models also come with advanced technology features that can enhance the driving experience.

Barriers

Availability of Charging Infrastructure

As a driver, the availability of charging points is crucial. The high demand for on-street parking and issues with grid capacity limiting the number of charging stations can be a significant barrier.

Range Anxiety

The fear of running out of battery before reaching a charging point can be a major concern. This is especially true for longer journeys or in areas with fewer charging stations.

Upfront Costs

The initial cost of purchasing an EV can be higher than that of a traditional vehicle. Even with potential savings on fuel and maintenance, the upfront expense can be a deterrent for drivers.

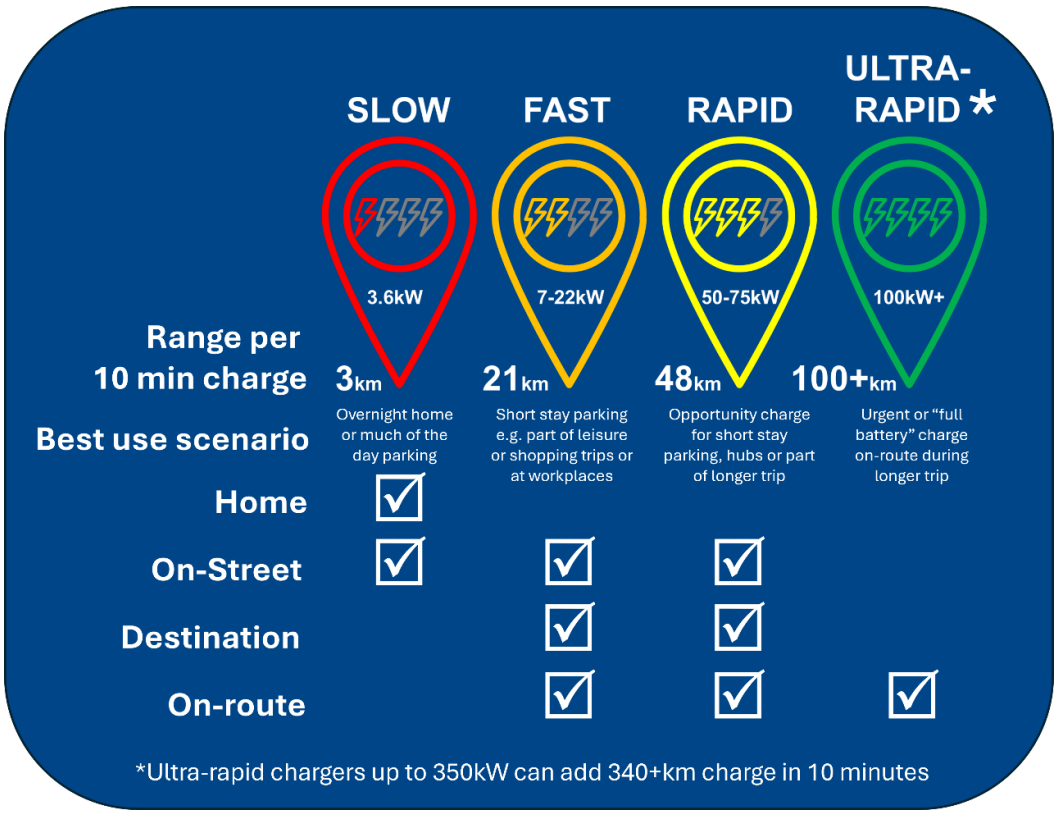
6. What are our chargepoint options?

How should chargepoint speeds be decided?

A number of chargepoint speeds are possible to install at potential future chargepoint sites as shown in Figure 7. These range from “slow” (3-7kW) to “ultra-rapid” (>100kW). The type of chargepoint needed depends on the location. At homes or workplaces, where people spend longer periods, slower chargepoints are ideal. Conversely, rapid and ultra-rapid chargepoints are more suitable for destinations or on-route charging, such as motorway services or visitor hotspots including beach resorts like Porthcawl, alongside parks. Faster chargepoints generally require more space, are more expensive to install and use, and place a higher demand on the power grid. In rural areas, limited grid capacity can pose significant challenges and additional costs for installations. Therefore, having a mix of chargepoints in an area is beneficial to meet various user needs and site constraints.

The provision of charging infrastructure for LGVs will also be considered. For example, opportunities for fast and rapid chargepoints in business parks and commercial areas to serve as opportunity chargepoints will be considered, alongside ensuring slow chargers are available in residential areas that are able to accommodate van users.

Figure 7 Chargepoint Speed Options



In Bridgend, groups of people likely to be partly or fully reliant on public chargepoints or alternatives include:

- **Residents in urban areas** who don’t have access to off-street parking or park in nearby car parks, including those living in terraced homes and flats.
- **Visitors and tourists** who do not have access to a chargepoint at their accommodation, especially those on longer journeys exploring the scenic landscapes.
- **Tenants in rented accommodation or developments** with communal car parks, where the property owner or manager has not installed chargepoints.
- **Travellers** on longer routes who need to ‘top up’ mid-journey, particularly at popular tourist destinations and service areas.

Given Bridgend's diverse community and the importance of tourism, having a variety of chargepoints is crucial. This approach ensures that the needs of both residents and visitors are met, while also addressing the challenges posed by rural grid capacity constraints.

What types of chargers are being developed?

Whilst EV charging technology for private driveways and car parks is well developed, on-street solutions are currently at an earlier stage of development. Across the market there is a range of upcoming chargepoint innovations being trialled and piloted, predominantly for use in on-street settings. Bridgend will monitor the development of these technologies and trials to understand which solutions would be most appropriate to the County.

Wireless Charging

Wireless EV charging uses inductive charging technology to recharge the vehicle battery without the need for physical cables. The innovative technology is still being researched, tested and developed through a small number of pilots and trials globally. The technology is not currently commercially or technically ready.

Advantages

✓ No street clutter and trip free way to run cables across pavements, reducing the risk of accidents

✓ EV owners are able to charge at home on their own energy supply, utilising cheaper tariffs

✓ Easy installation

Disadvantages

× Vehicles will need to be retrofitted

× Low technology readiness level

× High cost of installation and maintenance

Cable Gully Charging

Cable gully provides a solution to households who do not access to off-street parking. Cable gullies are channels installed in the pavement that provide a discreet and safe way to extend charging cables from homes to the roadside. Installation does not require heavy machinery and can be done by LAs.

Advantages

✓ No street clutter and trip free way to run cables across pavements, reducing the risk of accidents

✓ EV owners are able to charge at home on their own energy supply, utilising cheaper tariffs

✓ Easy installation

Disadvantages

× Can be expensive, especially if extensive groundwork is required

× New form of infrastructure requirements for LAs to update local policy planning and process

× Limited use for flats and multioccupancy residential buildings

Pop-up Pavement Charging

Pop-up EV chargerpoints posts offer a solution to households who do not have off-street parking. They remain hidden in the pavement when not in use, keeping footways clear. Currently, they are mostly available in trial phases in select cities.

Advantages

- ✓ Minimised street clutter by promoting space efficiency due to being able to retract into ground when not in use
- ✓ They can be installed in clusters, allowing for multiple chargers in one area with extensive infrastructure changes
- ✓ Improved safety as they are flush in the pavement when not in use

Disadvantages

- × Initial high installation costs especially if groundwork is required
- × Installation can be complex due to groundworks
- × Not widely available, mostly in trial phases

Lamppost Charging

Lamppost charging, including the retrofitting of existing lampposts, provides a solution to households who do not access to off-street parking. New lampposts with integrated chargers or existing lampposts with a chargepoint fitted retrospectively can provide a new charging option without requiring additional street furniture. The installation does not require footways to be dug up and can charge up to 7.36kW.

Advantages

- ✓ No additional street clutter and trip free way to run cables across pavements, reducing the risk of accidents
- ✓ EV owners are able to charge at home on their own energy supply, utilising cheaper tariffs
- ✓ Easy installation

Disadvantages

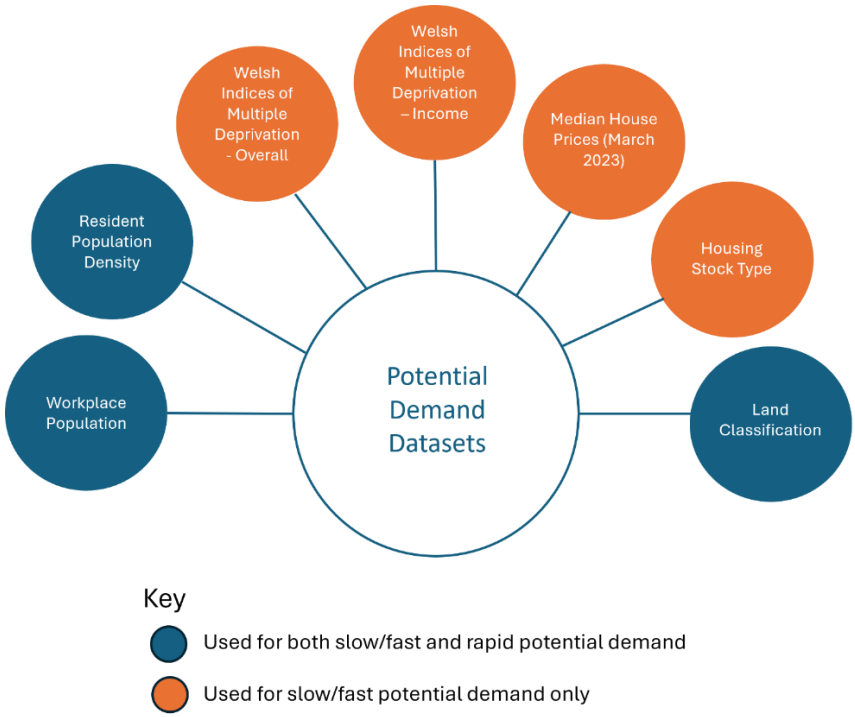
- × Can be expensive, especially if extensive groundwork is required
- × New form of infrastructure requirements for LAs to update local policy planning and process
- × Limited use for flats and multioccupancy residential buildings

7. Where will we need chargepoints by 2030?

To date, chargepoint rollout undertaken by the Council has been undertaken based on identifying suitable Council owned car parks in leisure-based settings which provide suitable locations for fast chargers. The rollout of CCR chargers has similarly identified suitable Council owned car parks, as well as some on-street locations, to deliver a mixture of slow/fast chargers across the County. To deliver the future forecasted number of chargers that will be required in Bridgend by 2030 (as identified in Section 4), it is important to consider where and when they are needed across the whole County, including in on-street settings, using a more evidenced spatial approach. A demand led approach has therefore been used to determine particular areas within Bridgend which are likely to require the largest share of the expected number of chargepoints.

Using a demand led approach to identifying the need for chargepoints

To develop a proactive EV chargepoint deployment strategy, we have evaluated the underlying potential demand for EV charging infrastructure across Bridgend. Several different indicators have been used to support this analysis including:



These indicators have been adapted based on charging speed. The demand potential for rapid chargers focuses on urban retail and manufacturing areas within the land classification indicator, excluding factors like housing stock type, deprivation, and house prices. Conversely, slow/fast charging demand focusses on residential and employment type areas. In both scenarios, areas with higher resident and workplace populations have been rated as having a greater potential for chargepoint demand. However, only slow/fast charging has taken higher percentages of flats or terraced housing within the housing stock indicator, alongside lower levels of deprivation and higher house prices, to indicate a greater potential demand for chargepoints. Further detail regarding the appraisal process is included in Appendix D. The results of this analysis have been visualised using “hexcell” based GIS data analysis to estimate the underlying demand for:

- Slow/Fast charging focusing on charging needs of residents without access to a driveway to charge their vehicles at home, alongside employees with extended periods at one location; and
- Rapid charging at points of interest, for fast top-up charging by residents, visitors and customers.

As locations are identified, it may be necessary to adopt a mixture of charging point speed to factor for a variety of charging purposes. For example, if a mobility hub type facility consisting of features such as EV

charging bays, cycle storage and public transport connections is considered at a strategic site, both slow and rapid chargers will be considered. Slow chargers will serve employees commuting into an area of employment, whilst rapid chargers will better serve shorter stay visitors travelling for leisure or personal business. It is also worth considering "passive" provision[3] of infrastructure to support quick installation of future connections as demand grows.

Demand for Slow/Fast (7-22kW) EV chargepoints

The highest potential for on-street slow/fast chargepoints are in locations where there is high population density alongside lower access to off-street parking. Slow/Fast charging demand is currently solely met by 22 kW EV chargepoints that have been commissioned by Bridgend County Borough Council. As of November 2024, there are currently 6 Council and 26 CCR commissioned locations in Bridgend with slow/fast chargers. These are listed in Table 1:

Table 1 The 30 Current Council Commissioned Slow and Fast Chargers in Bridgend

Current Council Commissioned Slow & Fast EV Chargepoints	
Garw Valley Leisure Centre (Up to 7kW)	Five Bells Car Park, Bridgend Centre (Up to 22kW)
Ogmore Valley Life Centre (7kW and 22kW)	Station Yard Car Park, off Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale (Up to 22kW)
Pencoed Swimming Pool (7kW and 22kW)	Dinam Street Car Park, Nant y Moel (Up to 22kW)
Pyle Swimming Pool (7kW and 22kW)	Former Railway Yard, Commercial Street, Nant y Moel (Up to 22kW)
Ynysawdre Swimming Pool (7kW and 22kW)	Oxford Street Car Park, Pontycywmer (Up to 22kW)
Bridgend Bowls Club car park (7kW and 22kW)	Hope Street Car Park, Aberkenfig (Up to 22kW)
Brackla Street Surface (Up to 22kW)	High Street Car Park, Heol y Cyw (Up to 22kW)
Tremains Road Car Park (Up to 22kW)	Penprysg Car park, Pencoed (Up to 22kW)
Tondu Road Car Park (Up to 7kW)	Pisgah Street (off Park Street behind Heath Bridge Surgery), Kenfig Hill (Up to 22kW)
Sarn Station Park & Ride (Up to 7kW)	Heol y Llyfrau car Park, Aberkenfig (Up to 22kW)
Maesteg Multi-Storey Car Park (Up to 22kW)	Maesteg Row, Maesteg (Up to 7kW)
Neath Road (Up to 7kW)	119 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig (Up to 7kW)
Pencoed Railway Station Park & Ride Car Park (Up to 7kW)	2 Heol Llan, North Cornelly (Up to 7kW)
Porthcawl Seafront - on street (Up to 22kW)	25 Green Valley, Pencoed (Up to 7kW)
Hillsboro Place Car Park, Porthcawl (7kW and 22kW)	5 Suffolk Close, Porthcawl (Up to 7kW)
Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl (7kW and 22kW)	Park Avenue Car Park, Ogmore Vale (Up to 22kW)

These, alongside the expected relative demand for slow/fast EV chargepoints by 2030, with a focus on on-street charging, are mapped in Figure 8. Highest potential demand is represented by the darkest areas and lowest by the lightest areas respectively. Figure 8 identifies that the south of the County currently has the greatest demand for an enhanced number of EV chargepoints up to 2030.

[3] Passive provision is when the necessary underlying infrastructure (e.g. cabling to parking spaces) is in place to ensure simple installation and activation of a charging point at a future date.

Figure 8 Potential Demand for Slow/Fast Chargepoints by 2030

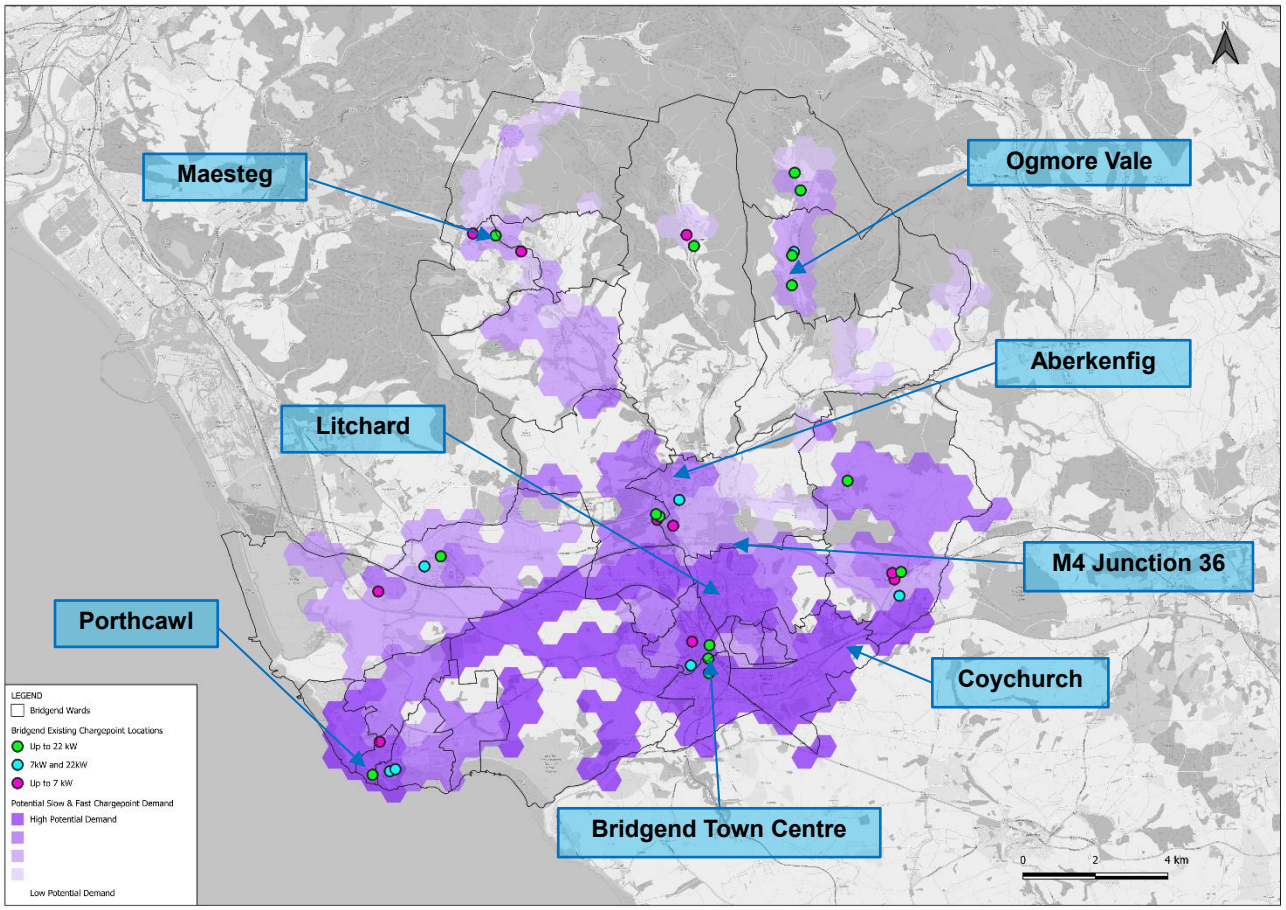


Table 2 further identifies a number of wards that have the greatest potential demand and key places and point of interest contained within them. These places will therefore be prioritised when identifying new EV chargepoints going forward. Consideration will also be given to valley communities such as Maesteg and Ogmore Vale where suitable locations can be identified, as these locations are shown to have a medium level of demand potential.

Table 2 Highest Priority Wards for Slow/Fast Chargepoints by 2030

Ward	Key Locations	Points of Interest
Brackla East and Coychurch Lower and Brackla West	• Brackla	
Coity Higher	• Coity • Litchard • Coychurch • Bridgend Industrial Estate	• Princess of Wales Hospital • Castell Coety • Bridgend Designer Outlet (Supermarket and Hotel)
Bryntirion, laleston and Merthyr Mawr	• Broadlands • Laleston • Merthyr Mawr	
Bridgend Central	• Town Centre • Ystrad Fawr • Brynhyfryd • Newcastle • Wild Mill	• Bridgend and Wild Mill station • Bridgend Bowls Club
Porthcawl (East & West Central, Nottage and Rest Bay)	• Town Centre	• Rest Bay • Sandy Bay • Trecco Bay • Coney Beach Pleasure Park

		• Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
Oldcastle	• Oldcastle • Whiterock	
Pen-y-Fai	• Pen-y-Fai	• Glanrhyd Hospital
Pencoed and Penprysg	• Pencoed	• Pencoed Station • Pencoed Business Park • Bocam Park
Aberkenfig	• Aberkenfig	• Sarn Station (Park and Ride) • Parc Slip Visitor Centre and Café • Tondu Enterprise Centre

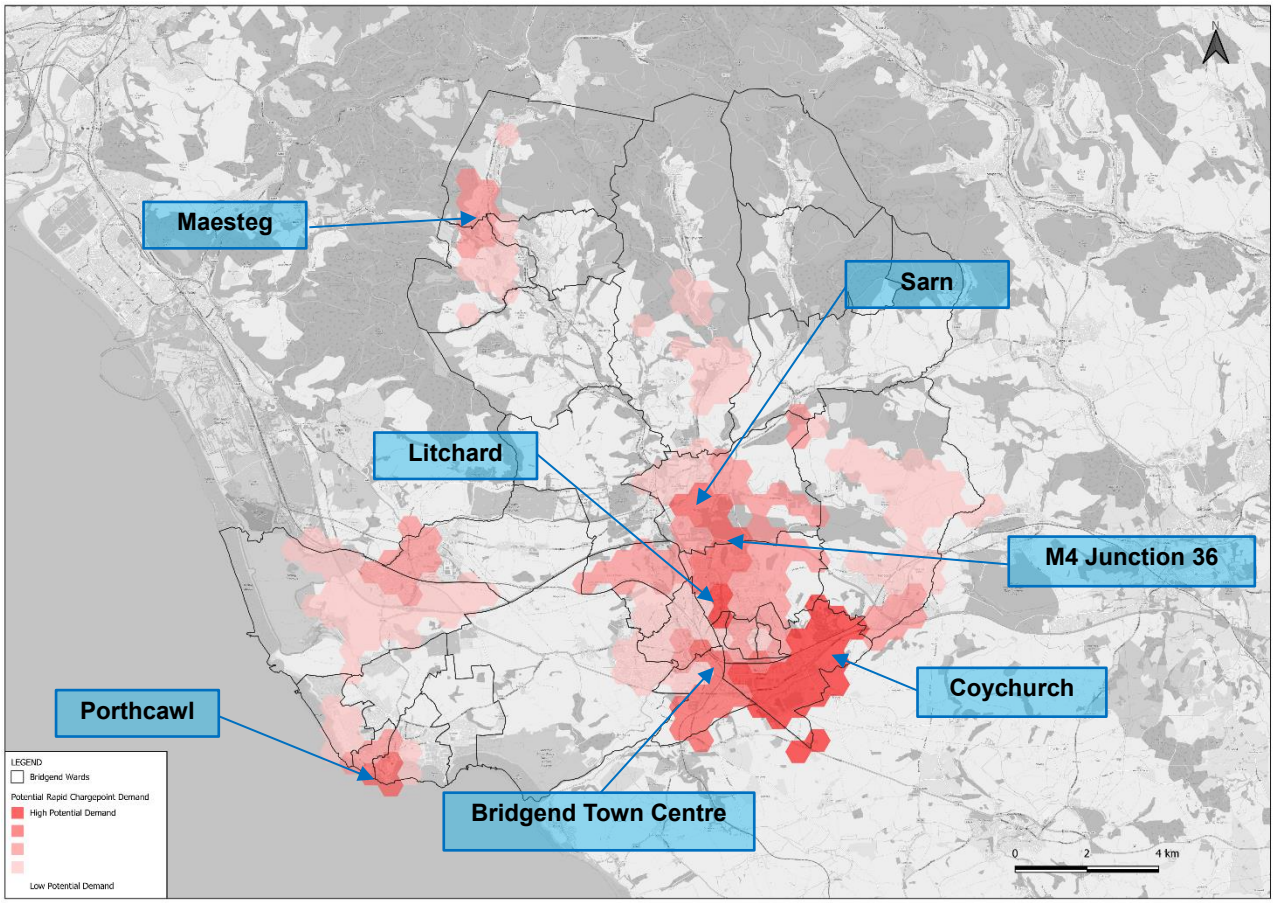
Note: Existing Council commissioned EV chargepoint locations are highlighted in red.

Rapid (50-100kW) EV chargepoint relative demand

Furthermore, key locations for potential rapid or ultra-rapid chargepoints have been identified, considering both the key destinations across Bridgend (i.e., locations with higher dwell time) and the availability of space to locate rapid chargepoints (either standalone or as a hub). These locations include high opportunity areas (e.g. retail, high-street car parks, industrial areas and tourist locations). These chargepoints will help meet the need of residents for top-up charging, as well as that of visitors, small businesses, taxi and PHV drivers travelling into the borough.

Bridgend currently has no rapid chargers that have been commissioned by the Council or CCR. A number of third-party operators do however operate such chargers across the County. We are therefore looking to begin developing our own rapid network of chargers at key locations that have been identified in the heat demand map in Figure 9. Highest potential demand is represented by the darkest areas and lowest by the lightest areas respectively. Figure 9 identifies that the wards closest to Bridgend town centre have the greatest potential demand for rapid chargepoints, alongside the area surrounding Junction 36 for the designer outlet and Sarn Park service station. Notably, wards containing Porthcawl town centre, Cornelly and Maseteg town centre are also identified as having a potential demand for rapid chargepoints.

Figure 9 Potential Demand for Rapid Chargepoints by 2030



In addition to those highlighted in Figure 9, some further wards for rapid chargepoint consideration are identified in Table 3, alongside some potential key locations and points of interest for consideration.

Table 3 Highest Priority Wards for Rapid Chargepoints by 2030

Ward	Key Locations	Points of Interest
Brackla East and Coychurch Lower and Brackla East Central	• Brackla	
Coity Higher	• Coity • Litchard • Coychurch	• Bridgend Industrial Estate • Princess of Wales Hospital • Castell Coety • Bridgend Designer Outlet (Supermarket and Hotel)
Oldcastle	• Oldcastle • Whiterock	
Bridgend Central	• Ystrad Fawr • Brynhyfryd • Newcastle • Wild Mill • Town Centre	• Bridgend Bowls Club
Porthcawl (East & West Central)	• Town Centre	• Coney Beach Pleasure Park • Sandy Bay • Trecco Bay
St. Bride's Minor and Ynysawdre	• Sarn • Brynmenyn	• Tondu Iron Park • Bridgend Designer Outlet (Stores) • Welcome Break Sarn Park Services M4 • Ynysawdre Swimming Pool • Sarn Station Park and Ride

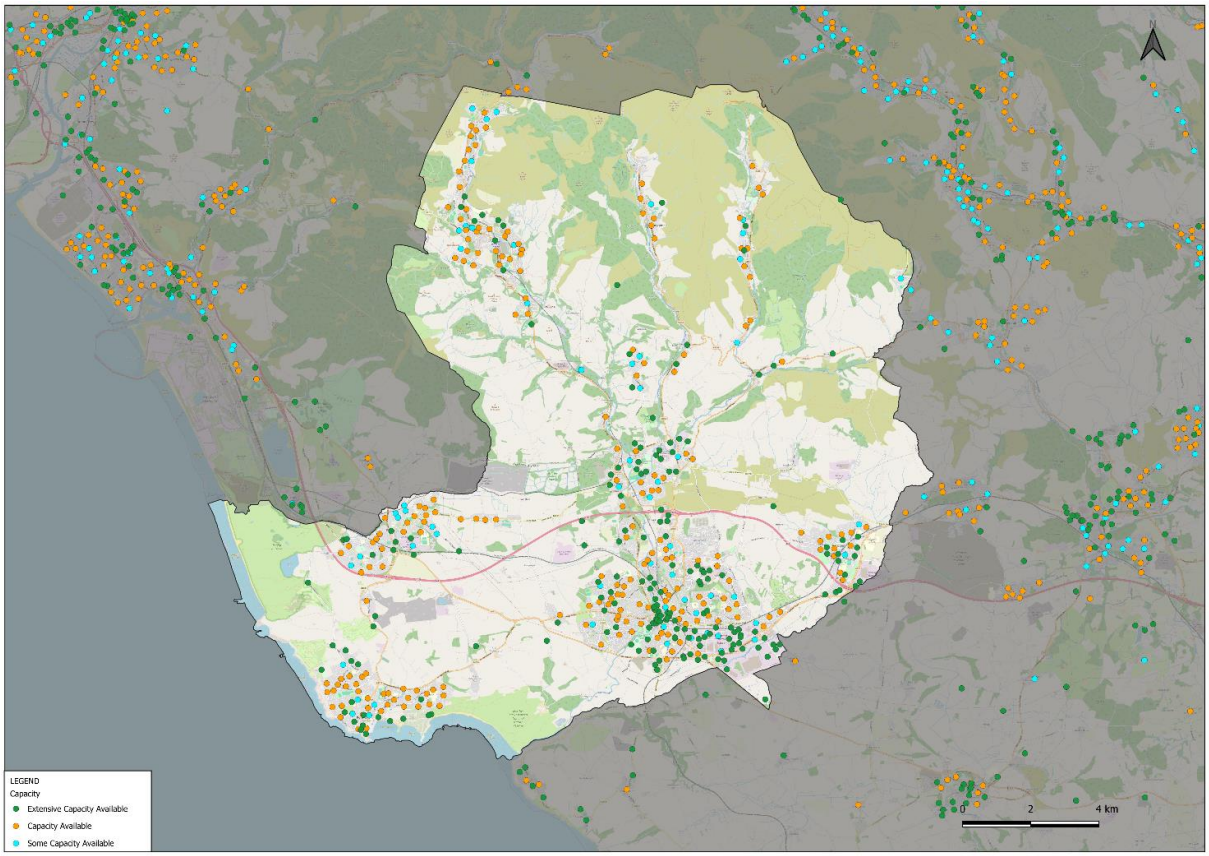
Caerau	• Caerau • Nantyffyllon • Spelter	
Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr	• Pyle • Kenfig Hill • Cefn Cribwr	• Village Farm Industrial Estate • Pyle Swimming Pool
Cornelly	• North Cornelly • South Cornelly	• Kenfig National Nature Reserve • Sker Beach
Pencoed and Penprysg	• Pencoed	• Pencoed Business Park • Bocam Park • Pencoed Swimming Pool • Pencoed Station
Maesteg West	• Maesteg • Town Centre	• Maesteg Community Hospital • Maesteg Ewenny Road Station
Pen-y-Fai	• Pen-y-Fai	• Glanrhyd Hospital

Note: Existing Council commissioned EV chargepoint locations are highlighted in red.

Grid capacity and constraints

The identification of suitable EV chargepoint locations will also consider distances to existing electricity sub-stations and their available or spare capacity, so the costs for grid connections and cabling to the EV chargepoints can be minimised. To deliver any potential rapid EV chargepoints or Charging Hubs where suitable capacity is currently unavailable, the Council will consider requesting new sub-stations and grid enhancements. Bridgend's current substation capacity and its ability to accommodate EVs across the County is shown in Figure 10. Where only some capacity is available, we may need to consider some management of charging but we only expect this to be a reactive solution in certain cases whilst we create additional local capacity.

Figure 10 Bridgend Substation Capacity Available for EVs



Data Source: National Grid Electricity Distribution PLC EV Capacity Data[4]

[4] National Grid - EV capacity map

8. How will the chargepoints be delivered?

As the EV market has matured the range of potential operating models and funding opportunities for the deployment of public EVI has evolved. Commercial approaches adopted in the earlier stages of rollout have been refined to leverage greater private investment and reduce the risk to local authorities.

There are many variations to reflect the unique requirements of each local authority, taking into account socioeconomic and geographical challenges. Key differentials in the various commercial models focus on who owns it, who operates it, who is responsible for operation and maintenance costs, and who benefits and how. The table below outlined the five most common models. We as a Council are currently considering the potential delivery models that are available, with a preference towards the land lease model. Each delivery model comes with its own individual strengths and weaknesses, with risk apportionment distributed differently across each option. A careful balance is required between the opportunity to generate revenue for Bridgend and the potential risks and other commercial considerations. A full list of advantages and disadvantages for each option is included in Appendix E.

Delivery Models	Potential Control by Bridgend County Borough Council	Potential Risk to Bridgend County Borough Council
Own & Operate: (Contractor Supply and Install only) Paid for and owned by the public sector, with capital and maintenance costs recouped from usage charges. Operations are contracted to a CPO.	**Highest**	**Highest**
Joint Venture: A joint venture between a local authority and a partner business, sharing responsibilities, risks, and benefits, will establish a new entity to own and manage the chargepoint network.	**High**	**High**
Public Private Commercial Partnership – External Operator: Capital costs are funded by the public sector, while the Charge Point Operator (CPO) covers some or all ongoing expenses in return for a share of the revenue.	**High**	**Medium**
Public Private Commercial Partnership – Concession: Capital costs are usually partially funded by the public sector, with the remaining costs covered by the Charge Point Operator (CPO). All operational costs and risks are transferred to the CPO.	**Medium**	**Low**
Land lease: All costs paid by CPO, which is granted a long-term lease/ license by the Local Authority, to allow the CPO to recover its costs.	**Low**	**Low**
TfW supply / install, LA operate: Paid for and owned by TfW, with capital and maintenance costs recouped from usage charges. Operations are carried out by LA.	**Medium**	**Low**

Current contract arrangements

For the majority of our EV chargepoints, Bridgend County Borough Council works with CCR and our chargepoint operator (Connected Kerb) to identify suitable locations to deliver new EV chargepoints across the County. CCR are responsible for the delivery of these chargepoints and for their day to day operation. For the 6 current Council commissioned EV chargepoint sites at leisure centres across the County, these have been delivered separately to the CCR chargepoints using an 'Own & Operate' contract model. Going forward, we are open to exploring a number of different contract and delivery options that deliver best value for money for the residents of Bridgend.

Funding opportunities

There are several funding schemes which can help with the rollout of EV chargepoint infrastructure. The Council have previously successfully applied for funding grants from the UK Government and Welsh Government including the Welsh Government Local Transport Fund. This has included over £75,000 for active travel improvements in Bryntirion and over £55,000 for pedestrian and cycling safety schemes over the current 2024-25 financial year. Figure 11 summarises the funding opportunities available to Bridgend County Borough Council. Details on these funding opportunities can be found in Appendix F.

Car club permits

Alongside formal funding routes local authorities can also consider car club permit funding options. For example, some local authorities have combined their parking permit process for car clubs with a commitment to secure funding for an EV chargepoint from operators (where feasible). In the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea the Council offer a £0 permit fee to car club operators for up to three years in return for installing an EV chargepoint.

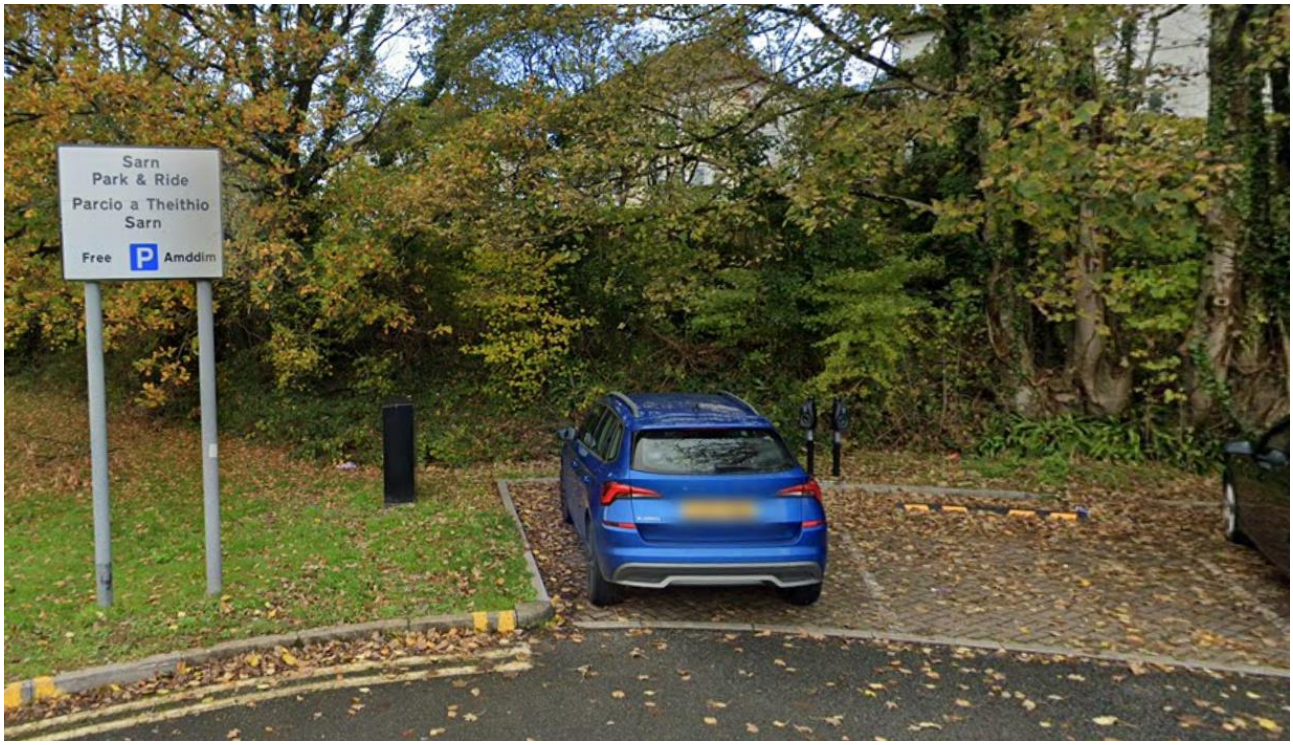
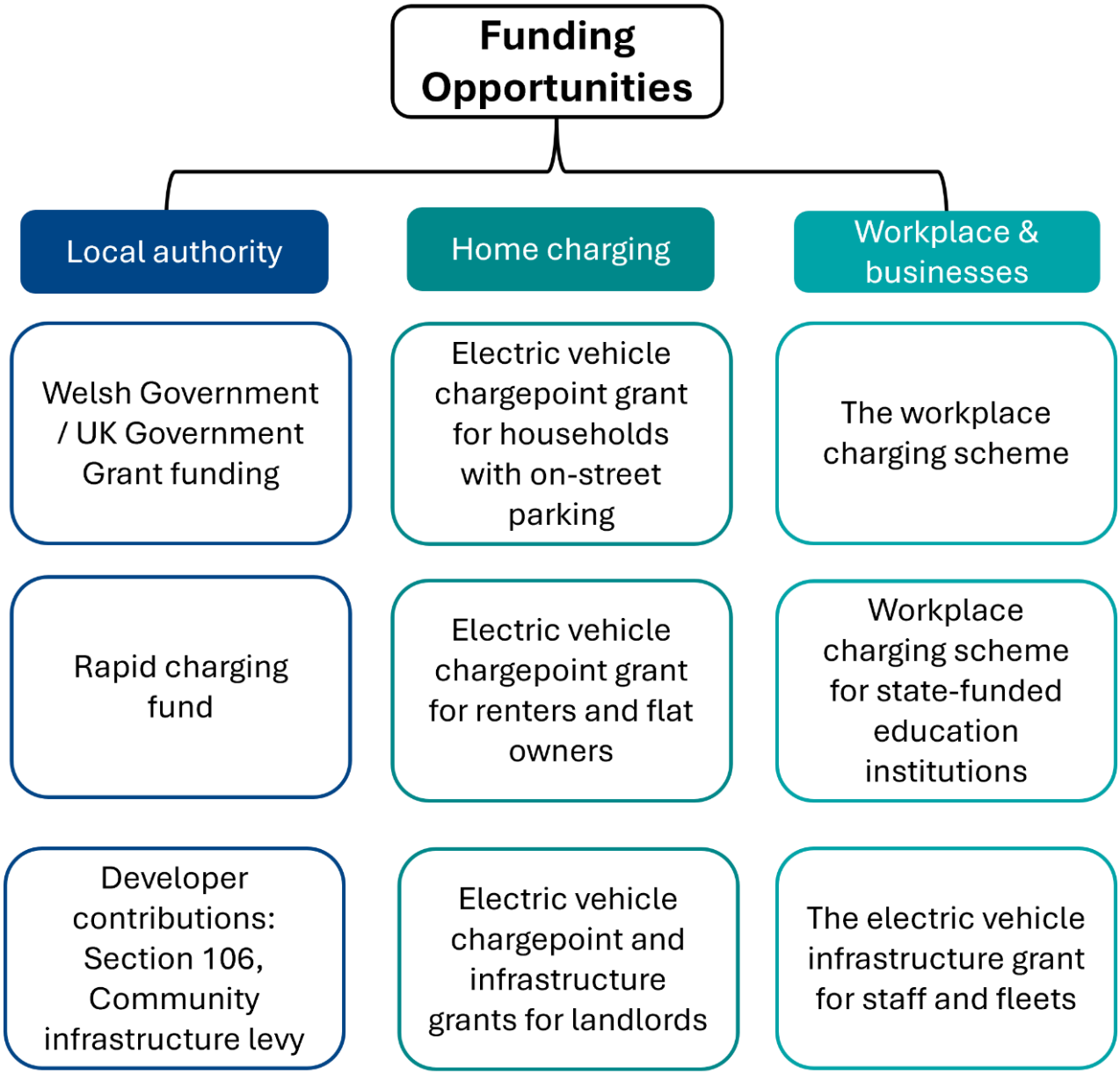


Figure 11 Funding Opportunities



9. When and how will chargepoints be delivered?

The Strategy has been prepared to help ensure Bridgend can bring the EV Strategy vision to life through delivering the required charging infrastructure to meet demand. This will enable an accelerated uptake of EVs up to 2030 and beyond. A list of actions has been identified over the following pages to support the achievement of the objectives and vision of the EV Strategy. The proposed actions provided a high-level implementation timeline and the corresponding role of the Council.

The timeframes listed in the table relate to the following years:

- **Short term** – between now and 2030
- **Medium term** – between 2030 and 2035
- **Long term** – 2035 and beyond.

	Priority Action Areas and Proposed Tasks	Bridgend County Borough Council role	Timescales
Action Area 1: Increase awareness and knowledge of EVs across the County			
1.1	Continue to use the existing Bridgend County Borough Council website as a mechanism to update, inform and highlight to residents, businesses and visitors' educational information on EV chargepoints.	Deliver	Ongoing
1.2	Support and promote local engagement activities (depending on the campaign and funding availability) to increase awareness of EVs and encourage uptake.	Deliver	Ongoing
1.3	Continue to highlight ways for the community to register expressions of interest for the installation of public EV chargepoints.	Deliver	Short
Action Area 2: Develop a network of public chargepoints that achieve appropriate levels of coverage			
2.1	Develop a prioritised roll-out plan for the procurement of EV chargepoints across Bridgend County Borough Councils' estate (such as Council car parks, community facilities and housing estates) based on underlying demand and utilisation data from existing chargepoints.	Deliver	Short/mid
2.2	Undertake a refinement of proposed locations for chargepoints, building on demand modelling findings	Deliver	Short/mid
2.3	Undertake design guide development with Bridgend planning and highways teams, to ensure a joined up approach where the most appropriate types of public chargepoints are identified for different situations. This will factor for heritage / environment sensitive locations. Options for a residents' tariff will be considered within this.	Deliver	Short/mid
2.4	Work with stakeholders to add public chargepoints to third-party land e.g. large trip attracting sites such as Bridgend Designer Outlet, retail areas and leisure facilities	Engage	Short
2.5	Install more public EV charging stations at popular tourist destinations, hotels, and key locations such as parks and beaches.	Deliver	Mid/long
Action Area 3: Ensure the EV chargepoint network is inclusive, reliable and accessible.			
3.1	Engage with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to identify rural areas with suitable grid capacity connections and understand where the Council may anticipate high upgrade costs.	Engage	Short
3.2	Facilitate peer-to-peer community charging schemes which allows residents with private home chargepoints to share these with other drivers.	Deliver	Mid/long
3.3	Where possible, continue to install charging hubs in car parks for residents which can serve EV drivers without access to off-street parking.	Deliver	Mid/long
3.4	Ensure contactless payments across all chargepoints over 7kW.	Deliver	Mid/long

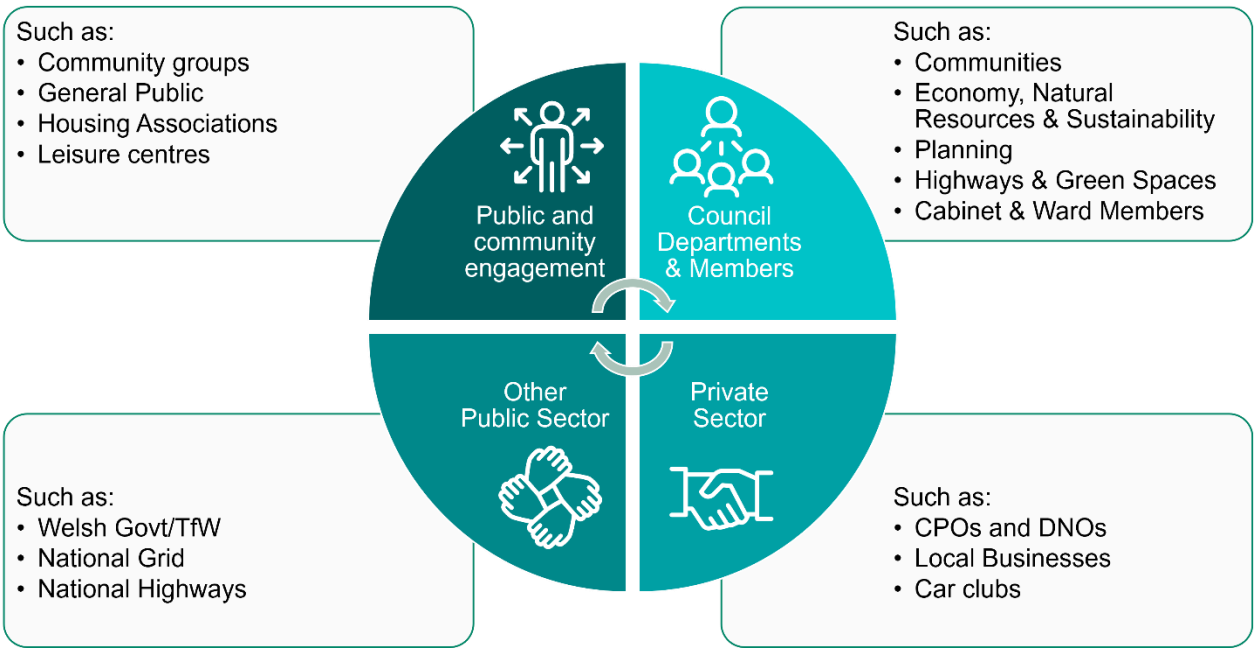
3.5	Ensure all new chargepoints meet the accessibility standards outlined in PAS 1899:2022 (or updated guidance if superceded) where possible based on location and space availability.	Deliver	Mid/long
Action Area 4: Develop an EV chargepoint network which is sustainable economically, technically and fairly priced for users,			
4.1	Explore funding models that allow for consistency in fair pricing across Bridgend County Borough Council commissioned chargers.	Engage/deliver	Short/mid
4.2	Identify a funding and on-going commercial model with chargepoint operators that ensures a fair roll out of future EV chargepoint sites across the County that best serves the residents and visitors of Bridgend.	Engage/deliver	Short/mid
4.3	As new contractual arrangements are required, consider procuring a public-private partnership(s) with CPOs which allow the cross-subsidisation of profitable sites in urban areas with less profitable sites in rural locations, to achieve more equal access to chargepoints overall.	Deliver	Short/mid
4.4	Explore and create opportunities with the private sector to deliver chargepoints without using public funds.	Engage/deliver	Short/mid
4.5	Investigate offering discounts during off-peak hours to make charging more affordable for users.	Influence	Short/mid
Action Area 5: Facilitate a transition to EVs for both private and commercial users while encouraging walking and cycling reducing car ownership and car mode share.			
5.1	Develop mobility hubs where suitable location can be found to allow for strategic areas where individuals and businesses can charge EVs and utilise active travel and public transport as part of their journey to reduce vehicle miles driven.	Deliver	Mid/long
5.2	Investigate introducing car clubs with electric vehicles at appropriate sites to support residents to reduce car trips and car ownership.	Deliver	Mid/long
5.3	When developing new infrastructure and settlements, we will ensure active travel and public accessibility is jointly considered with the provision of EV charging to introduce habits of not requiring a vehicle for every journey early on.	Influence	Short/mid

10. What happens next?

Public consultation and strategy delivery

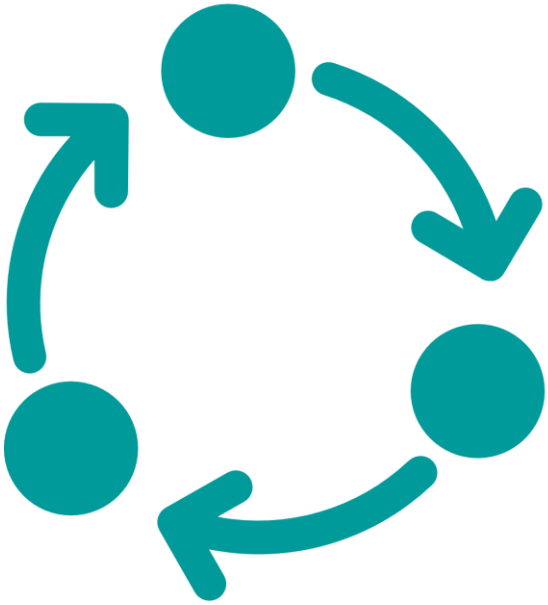
To ensure our EV strategy aligns with the needs of the community, we will be conducting a public consultation. This will provide residents, businesses, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to share their insights and feedback. Your input will be invaluable in shaping a strategy that meets the evolving needs of Bridgend. Additionally, we will adhere to necessary regulatory processes, such as Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and planning permissions, to ensure compliance and efficiency. These stakeholders will then be regularly consulted during the delivery of the strategy to ensure we can efficiently deliver EV chargepoints across the County. A summary of the individuals and groups that will be consulted is outlined in Figure 12 below.

Figure 12 Engagement and Delivery Partners



Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating the success of the EV transition in Bridgend will be crucial. This process will involve tracking the performance of the current scheme and integrating any lessons learned into future projects. Keeping an eye on developments elsewhere in the UK will also provide valuable insights.



The Council will implement a monitoring and evaluation plan to track how EV uptake and the roll-out of chargepoints are aligned with forecasts in this strategy and against the related actions.

The Council will continue to monitor the performance of the chargepoints it procures. Data could include chargepoint use (such as chargepoint utilisation,

number of charging sessions, energy delivered, duration of charging sessions, and chargepoint downtime).

Additionally, feedback from residents through community panels will be essential for assessing the effectiveness of the existing infrastructure and suggesting improvements. This approach will ensure the continuous enhancement of Bridgend County Borough Council's EV Network.

Measuring success

Some examples of key performance indicators that may be included to measure success are:

- Number of registered EVs in Bridgend
- Number and utilisation of Council-owned EV charging stations
- Public EV charging density (per capita or per hectare)

Bridgend will implement a comprehensive approach that includes monitoring progress, planning initiatives, engaging stakeholders, and delivering results over the short, mid, and long term. This structured framework will ensure the effective execution and continuous improvement of the EV strategy, adapting to technological advancements and evolving national policies. By maintaining a dynamic and responsive strategy, Bridgend aims to meet the needs of its residents and support the widespread adoption of EVs.

Future updates of the strategy

The adoption of EVs continues to develop at pace and as a result the EV Strategy will need to be regularly reviewed and reassessed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and continues to meet the needs and priorities of the community and the Council.

The Council will review the EV Strategy in five years (2030), to ensure it continues to consider the local needs, most up to date policies and the EV chargepoint infrastructure best practice. This will include sharing information and knowledge with neighbouring local authorities and implementing lessons learnt.

Appendix A Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019, and have committed to delivery of Wales' target of net zero by 2050. Two key documents effectively initiated the policy response to the demand for EV charging in Wales. **Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales** sets out how Wales would address its carbon budget obligations, naming 76 existing policies from across the Welsh Government, UK Government and the EU plus 24 proposed further measures. Five of the existing policies and four of the proposals relate to EVs and associated charging infrastructure. Around the same time, the **Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee** published a **draft report on EV Charging in Wales** which urged accelerated progress on a number of measures, recommending seven interventions, all of which were taken forward.

Notable amongst these were, which have been acted upon strongly by TfW in the years since the report are:

- Ensuring effective stakeholder engagement in delivery of EVCI;
- Ensure lessons learned from the Superfast Cymru broadband project are learned; and
- Maximise uptake of UK Government grants by local authorities.

Welsh Government published an **Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy in 2022**, which sets out an objective that '*by 2025, all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can access electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it*'. This builds on the Planning Policy Wales (2018) statement that we should ensure our transportation infrastructure is adaptable to future advances in innovation (e.g. electric vehicles).

The Wales EV charging strategy identifies a need for:

- A substantial increase in the number of slow, fast and rapid/ultra-rapid chargers available in Wales;
- Better quality charging, to improve user experience for electric cars and vans; and
- Working with the current regulatory framework of electricity network owners so that the needs of charging will be met in a way that is efficient for network management incorporating smart technology.

The modelling for EV charging requirement predictions set out in the Welsh Government EV strategy is based on the adoption of fully electric private vehicles from the 'Leading the Way' Future Energy Scenario, modified to account for the 2030 ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars and vans announced by the UK Government.

It is noted that the UK government have since announced in September 2023 that new petrol and diesel cars will continue to be sold in the UK until 2035. By 2030, 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold by vehicle manufacturers will need to be zero emission, and 100% of all sales by 2035.

The Welsh Government EV action plan sets out a series of outcomes and actions, with attributable KPIs, to achieve the ambitions set out within the EV charging strategy including achieving an increased total charging provision, improved quality outcomes, and realise localised benefits.

The Strategic Outline Business Case for EV Charging in Wales was published in 2023 and contains a number of specific actions for the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, local authorities and other stakeholders. It outlines the scale of investment and growth needed in EVCI and the types of commercial models available to halp facilitate their delivery. It is noted that the forecast demand for EVCI and their costs were able to be more accurately assessed than in the early market period of 2021 and indeed these SOBC forecasts remain as a benchmark against which delivery can be assessed today.

Supporting local authorities in addressing their actions are a number of bodies, including Transport for Wales who provide stakeholder engagement, particularly with commercial CPOs, as well as engagement with other organisations such as Cenex who provide various insights, forecasts and knowledge exchange activities to all Welsh LAs.

Further support for delivery in Wales is provided by the EVCI Welsh National Standards. This document remains as a key item of guidance in the delivery of EVCI in Wales, outlining in condensed form roles and responsibilities, appropriate types of charging, siting of charge points and accessibility[5], and navigating issues surrounding connections and planning.

Since 2019, local authorities have delivered over 100 projects, commercial CPOs many times more. This was supported by TfW's early interventions to ensure the most rural sites on the Strategic Road Network had rapid chargers, building on the base network to ensure 50kW charging at least every 25 miles.

The Welsh Government position on EV charging is synonymous with Central Government messaging and policy around the topic, with a targeted transition to EV being central to transport decarbonisation, removing charging infrastructure as a perceived and real barrier to EV adoption.

[5] Published and partly superseded prior to the issuance of BSI PAS1899 (2022) accessibility standards

Regional and Local Policy and Guidance

Both Cardiff Capital Region and Bridgend County Borough Council's existing policies have net-zero ambitions and sustainability embedded within them, which will support the emerging Bridgend EV strategy. CCR's emerging ULEV Strategy seeks to reduce emissions and improve charging infrastructure, with a reduction in road transport emissions of 60% by 2035 across the region targeted as part of the CCR Energy Strategy.

The Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy includes a commitment to oversee the development of a best-practice approach for ULEV technology across the Council's own fleet, staff vehicles and public EV charging. This includes a commitment to prioritise the development of an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate and includes ensuring EVs are prioritised as replacements for Council owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2025. The strategy further outlines that the Council will also install EV charging points in new developments beyond minimum standards, and car parks will be future-proofed by installing submerged cabling infrastructure in all new car parking spaces for the provision of future charge points

Additionally, Bridgend's 2021 Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has a vision to support Bridgend to transition to an affordable and decarbonised energy system and demonstrates the council's commitment to facilitating EV uptake across the region. The plan identifies that the Council is committed to net zero carbon emissions across the borough by 2040 and becoming a Net Zero Council by 2030.

Appendix B NEVIS Modelling Methodology

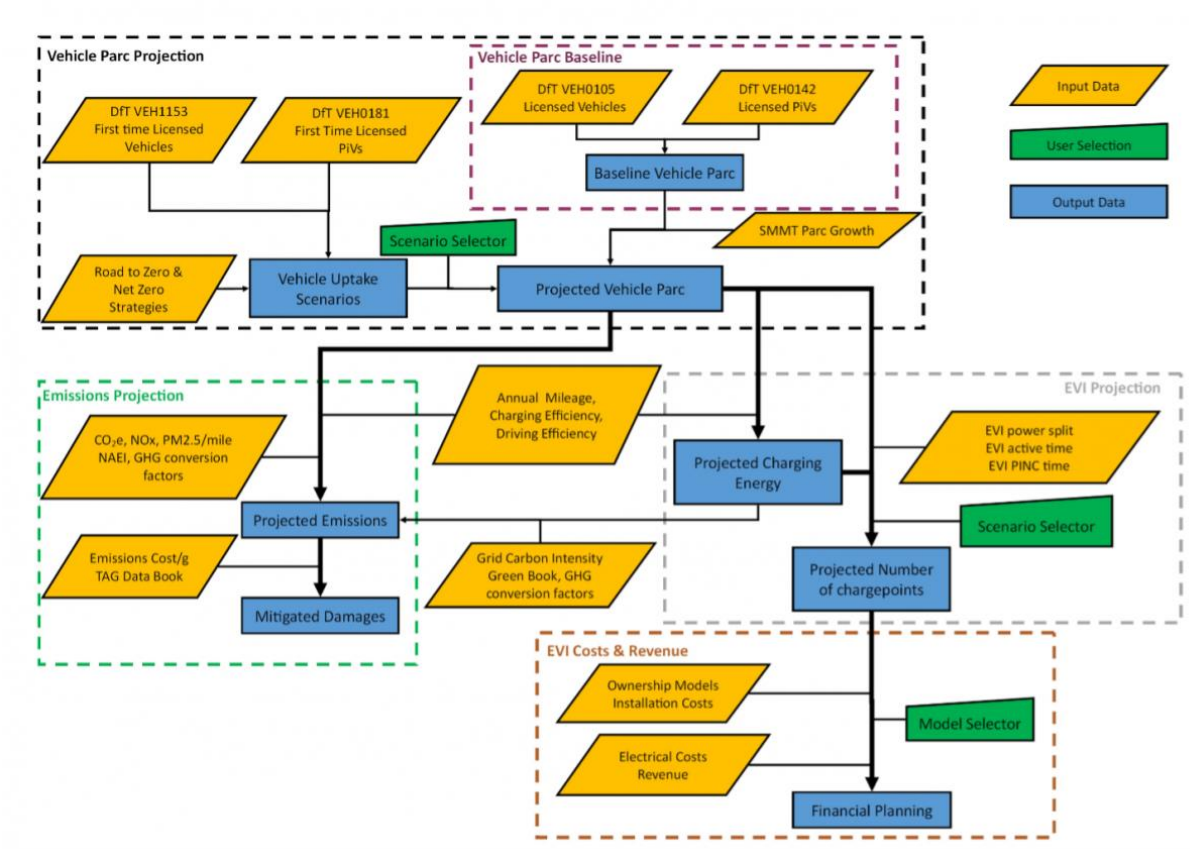
EV Forecast position methodology (adapted from NEVIS)

Utilising DfT vehicle registration and licensing data target points have been added to allow an adoption curve to be constructed from the historic data to the target. These target points are taken from existing policy positions:

- Low: ZEV mandate – Following minimum ZEV mandate BEV sales up to 80% at 2030 (70% for LCVs)
- Medium: 2035 ban – 100% of new car and LGV sales are BEV by 2035
- Fast: 2030 ban – 100% of sales are EV by 2030, and 100% BEV by 2035

In order to join the historic and target data points, an adoption curve is used for the different uptake scenarios (low, medium and fast). To determine the EV projection the total number of new vehicles was calculated as a percentage of the total vehicle parc. For reference, the average rate from 2015 to 2022 was 7% for cars and 8.8% for LGVs; this is assumed to remain constant through the model.

The model then multiplies the percentage of new vehicles by the current parc size for each new year projected. This provides the total number of new vehicles in the UK, where new EVs are split into BEV or Other but new ICE vehicles are split into Petrol, Diesel and Other ICE using an average ratio in the licensing data which remains constant in the model. Then vehicles are scrapped from the vehicle parc to obtain a target total parc size. To identify the total number of scrapped cars the SMMT vehicle parc size projections are used and LGVs using a projected growth from the government's road traffic forecasts. Any new vehicles are then added and scrapped vehicles are subtracted from the previous year's parc to determine the vehicle parc for the following year. A breakdown of the methodology including input data, user selection and output data can be found in the below figure.



EVI forecast position

The first step to determining the required EV chargepoint infrastructure to meet the projected EV demand is to identify the required energy demand projection. The NEVIS tool uses average daily vehicle mileage data and multiplies this by the driving efficiency for each vehicle type and charging efficiency is then added at 90%. This determines the charging energy requirement per vehicle per day. The model multiples this by the number of BEVs from the vehicle parc projections to determine the total energy requirement per day. Whilst Other EVs are assumed to use their ICE capabilities for 68.2% of their mileage and their remaining electric driving energy is then added to the total energy requirement.

The model then accounts for the proportional amount of charging completed at home and on the public charging network. Roughly 68% of all households in the UK have the option for private off-street parking, so it is assumed where this is the case as it is most convenient and likely the cheapest option most will charge at home. Where local on/off-street parking ability is known this value is used and where it is unknown the national average is used.

It is important to account for the circumstances where these drivers may choose to use the public charging network. To account for this, the model assumes 6.31% of all charging demand from these drives is completed on the public charging network. Therefore, the total requirement for public EV chargepoint infrastructure is based on the total charging demand of the vehicle parc minus the demand from those with off-street parking plus the 6.31% of the demand from those with off-street parking.

The EV chargepoint demand is then split between the EV chargepoint power ratings (standard, fast, rapid and ultra-rapid) according to the vehicle's capability (e.g. EV chargepoint power output <vehicle accepted max rate of charge).

It is important to note that different local authorities have opted for different approaches to public charging with some choosing to focus on residential on-street charging and others choosing to focus on rapid charging solutions. Therefore, to allow for the different approaches, the three scenarios (blend, residential and hub) are available which determine the percentage energy demand that is met by EV chargepoint infrastructure of a given power output.

Appendix C Additional EV Uptake Scenarios

Low Uptake Scenario

The forecasts for the expected vehicle types and associated number of chargepoints required in Bridgend up to 2050 under the 'low uptake[6]' scenario are shown in the figures below. These identify that an additional 15,102 EV vehicles are forecast within Bridgend by 2030, 32,240 by 2035 and 73,576 by 2050. These will require an additional 141 public chargepoints by 2030, 351 by 2035 and 804 by 2050 to serve this increase from current levels.

Figure C-1 Forecast Vehicle Types Across Bridgend by 2050 Under the 'Low Uptake' Scenario

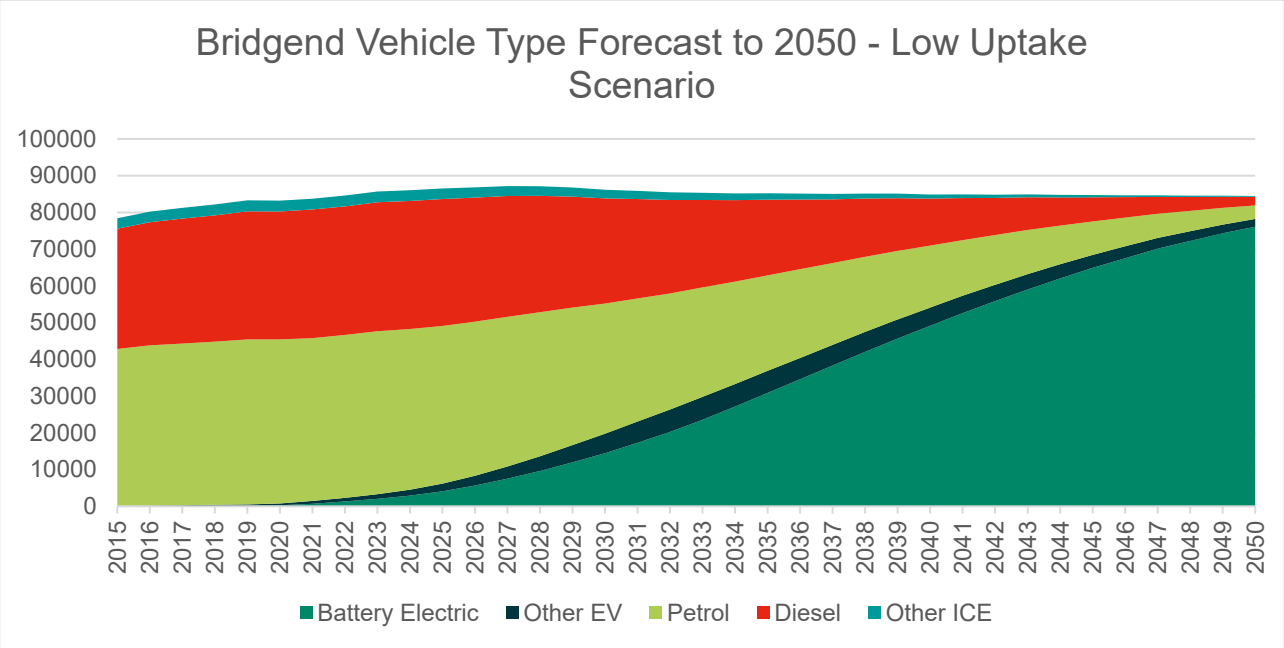
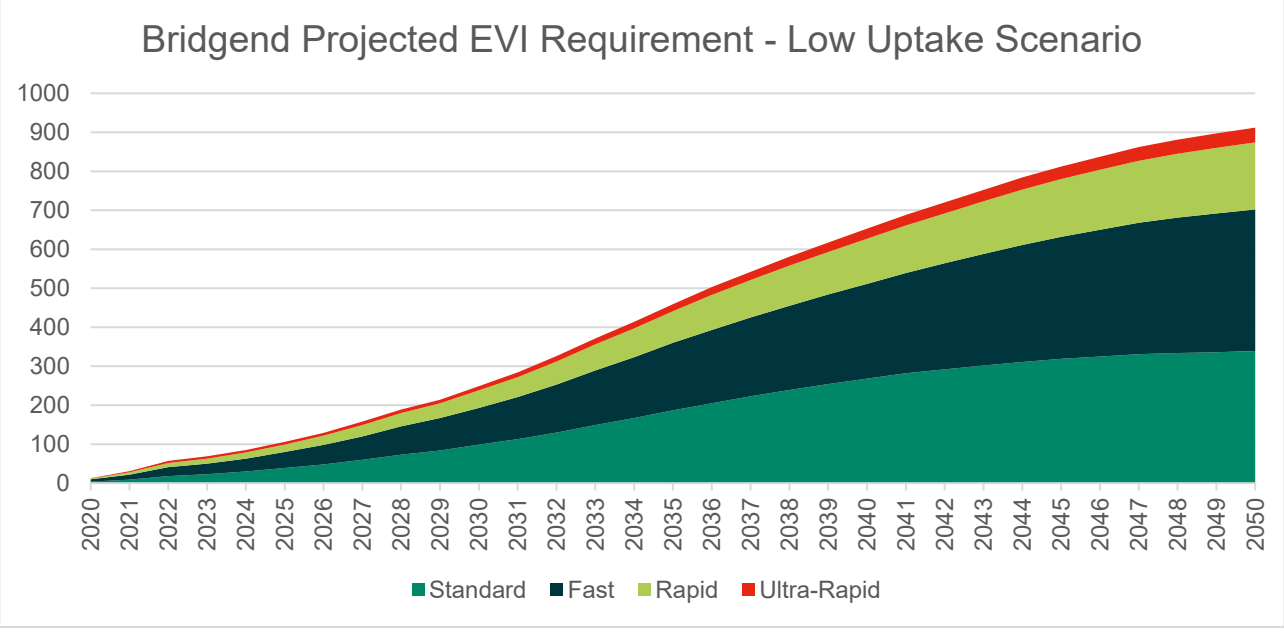


Figure C-2 Forecast Required Chargepoints Across Bridgend by 2050 Under the 'Low Uptake' Scenario



[6] Scenario is based on lower EV sales compared to the 'mid' scenario, equivalent to up to 80% of all sales by 2030 (70% for commercial vehicles).

Fast Uptake Scenario

The forecasts for the expected vehicle types and associated number of chargepoints required in Bridgend up to 2050 under the 'fast uptake[7]' scenario are shown in the figures below. These identify that an additional 25,007 EV vehicles are forecast within Bridgend by 2030, 47,876 by 2035 and 79,819 by 2050. These will require an additional 265 public chargepoints by 2030, 525 by 2035 and 868 by 2050 to serve this increase from current levels.

Figure C-3 Forecast Vehicle Types Across Bridgend by 2050 Under the 'Fast Uptake' Scenario

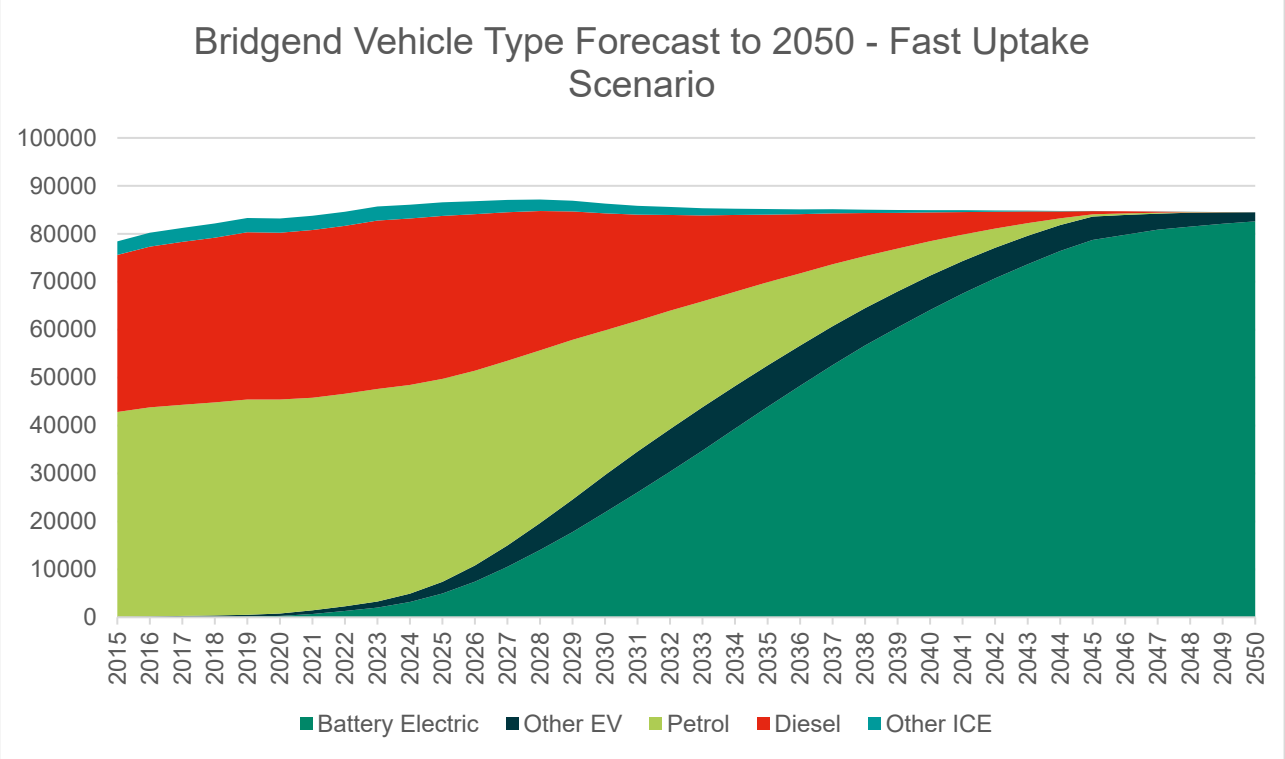
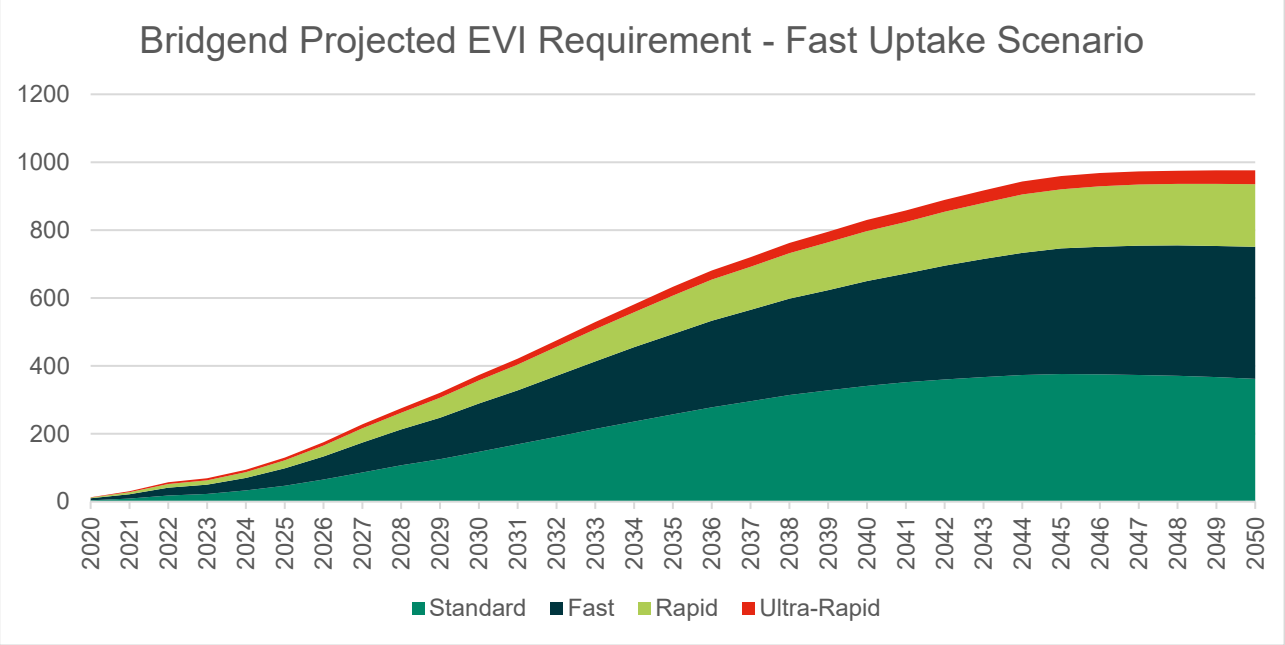
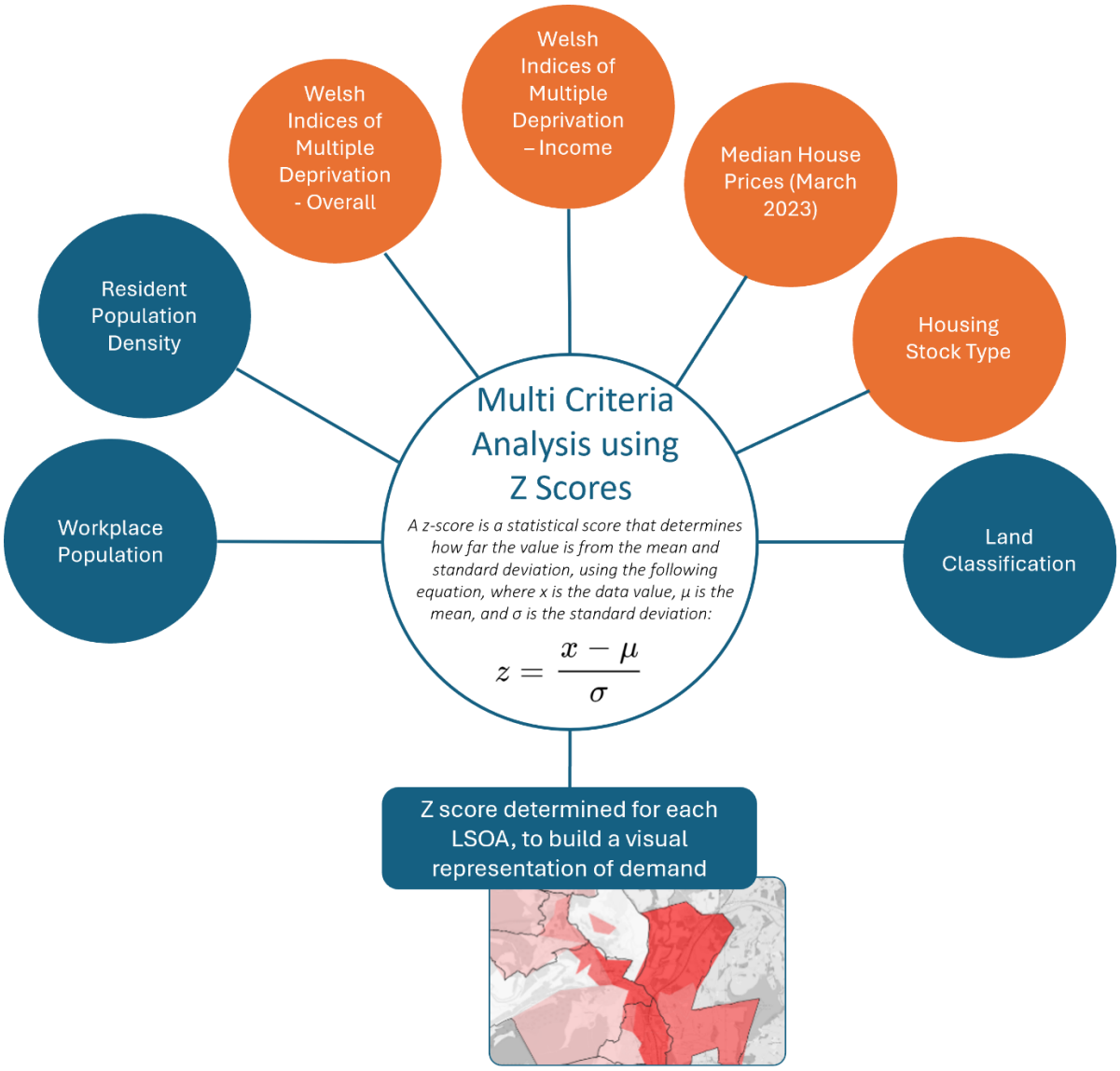


Figure C-4 Forecast Required Chargepoints Across Bridgend by 2050 Under the 'Fast Uptake' Scenario



[7] Scenario is based on a 2030 ban of ICE vehicles, where 100% of sales are EV by 2030 and 100% BEV by 2035.

Appendix D Demand Appraisal Methodology



To identify the potential EV demand, the raw indicator data dependent upon the chargepoint speed being appraised for each LSOA has been converted into a z-score as part of a multi criteria analysis framework. This method of statical analysis standardises the normal distribution of the data within each criterion to ensure a fair comparison of each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Z Scores above the mean have positive standard scores, while those below the mean have negative standard scores.

A total Z Score is then extracted for each LSOA which is then used to visually categorise each LSOA in terms of their demand potential for EV chargepoints. The LSOA area is converted into 1km Hexcels for display in the output map.

Appendix E Delivery Models

Delivery Models	Potential Control by Bridgend County Council	Potential Risk to Bridgend County Council	Advantages	Disadvantages
Own & Operate: (Contractor Supply and Install only) Paid for and owned by the public sector, with capital and maintenance costs recouped from usage charges. Operations are contracted to a CPO.	Highest	Highest	• Highest potential income for the local authority • Full control over locations and tariffs	• Requires significant grant funding to cover all costs • Highest risk, in terms of ongoing liabilities, maintenance costs, upgrades, and stranded assets
Joint Venture: A joint venture between a local authority and a partner business, sharing responsibilities, risks, and benefits, will establish a new entity to own and manage the chargepoint network.	High	High	• Innovative arrangement to fulfil complementary objectives • Higher levels of control over installations, tariffs and specification, compared to arms length arrangements	• Resource intensive to establish, manage, finance and monitor a new legal entity, and the delivery of the associated chargepoint network. • Exposure to investment and reputational risks
Public Private Commercial Partnership – External Operator: Capital costs are funded by the public sector, while the Charge Point Operator (CPO) covers some or all ongoing expenses in return for a share of the revenue.	High	Medium	• Reduced liability for operating costs • Retains high degree of control over chargepoint operations	• Requires significant public sector funding to cover all capital costs
Public Private Commercial Partnership – Concession: Capital costs are usually partially funded by the public sector, with the remaining costs covered by the Charge Point Operator (CPO). All operational costs and risks are transferred to the CPO.	Medium	Low	• CPO incentivised and responsible for maintenance • Reduced risk for public sector	• Reduced income share • To be commercially attractive, needs to be a relatively large number of sites so that CPO can balance risk across sites,

			• Less public sector funding needed	and long-term contracts (e.g. 10-20 years
Land lease: All costs paid by CPO, which is granted a long-term lease/ license by the Local Authority, to allow the CPO to recover its costs.	Low	Low	• Lowest risk for the local authority • Rent paid to local authority by CPO provides some guaranteed income • CPO heavily incentivised to maintain chargepoints	• Many areas are currently commercially unviable • Lowest potential income for local authorities • Least control and inability to incorporate wider goals
TfW supply / install, LA operate: Paid for and owned by TfW, with capital and maintenance costs recouped from usage charges. Operations are carried out by LA.	Medium	Low	• Reduced risk for public sector • Less public sector funding needed	• Reduced income share • Resource intensive to manage operations

Appendix F Grant Funding

Fund	Details
Grant funding from Welsh Government / UK Government	For example: Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund (ULEVTF). This fund supports the development of EV charging infrastructure, including rapid and ultra-rapid charging stations across Wales
Rapid Charging Fund	The £950 million **Rapid Charging Fund** will help implement a rapid charging network along the strategic road network such as motorways and major A Roads, to meet consumer demand ahead of consumer need.
Developer contributions	Local authorities can leverage funding through **the Section 106.** This provides a dedicated sum of money towards EV infrastructure as part of new development requirements.
Home charging grants	• The **Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for renters and flat owners** provides up to 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, up to a maximum of £350. • The **Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for households with on-street parking** provides up to 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, up to a maximum of £350 and support for residents who are also installing a cross-pavement solution. The **Electric vehicle chargepoint and infrastructure grants for landlords** provides 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, up to a maximum of £350 per socket. Recipients can receive 200 grants per year for residential properties and a further 100 for commercial properties.
Workplace and business charging grants	• The **Workplace Charging Scheme** provides support for organisations towards the cost of installing up to 40 EV chargepoint sockets at their sites. The scheme covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of the EV chargepoints, capped at a maximum of £350 per socket and 40 sockets across all sites per applicant. The scheme is open to businesses, charities, public sector organisations and small accommodation businesses. • The **Workplace Charging Scheme for state-funded education institutions** provides support towards the costs of the purchase, installation and infrastructure of EV chargepoints. The scheme covered 75% off the cost to buy and install chargepoints up to a maximum of 2,500 per socket and 40 sockets across all sites including any applications made by the Workplace Charging Scheme. The **Electric vehicle infrastructure grant for staff and fleets** provides small and medium-sized business with 75% of the cost of the work of installing EV chargepoints up to £15,000. Recipients can get up to £350 per chargepoint socket installed and up to £500 per parking space enabled with supporting infrastructure for a total of five grants.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**LOUIS PANNELL PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY OFFICER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an overview of the public consultation exercise on the draft Retail and Commercial Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document. It also seeks Cabinet approval to present the final Retail and Commercial Development SPG to Council to seek its adoption. Adoption of the SPG will enable effective implementation of the Retail and Commercial Development Policies within the adopted Replacement Local Development Plan, 2024 (RLDP), the Council's statutory land-use Planning document.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the draft Retail and Commercial Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (**SPG**) document.

1.2 The report also seeks Cabinet approval to present the Retail and Commercial Development SPG (**Appendix 1**), to Council to seek its adoption in order to support the Retail and Commercial Development Policies within the adopted Replacement Local Development Plan (**RLDP, March 2024**).

2. Background

2.1 The adopted RLDP has a key role in ensuring that Town, District and Local Centres (**Centres)**, are promoted as hubs of socio-economic activity, and are the focal points for a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve. Town Centres offer a wide range of shops and facilities serving a large catchment area, whereas District and Local Centres usually contain a small food store and a range of services that serve a smaller, more limited catchment area. They act as the most appropriate and sustainable locations for new retail, leisure and

supporting commercial development. This accords with the '*Town Centre First'* policy contained within '*Future Wales: The National Plan 2040'* (**Future Wales**), Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 4: Retail and Commercial Development (**TAN4**), to help build resilient communities, and respond to the long-term impacts of Covid-19, which have not only re-focused the lives of people and communities but acted as a further driver towards making such Centres multi-functional places.

2.2 The framework for the management of retail and commercial development in the County Borough is provided by Policy SP12, and its supporting Policies ENT6, ENT7, ENT8 and ENT9. The *Retail Study 2018* formed a key part of the adopted RLDP's evidence base and helped form the basis of these policies. The Retail Study 2018 sets out a number of recommendations, including '*retail need'* (the demand for additional retail floorspace), the distribution of retail need and the definition of "*Primary Shopping Areas" and "Secondary Shopping Areas*", to inform the policies contained within the adopted RLDP. The *Retail Study Update 2022,* further analysed trends affecting the retail sector across the County Borough, considered how trends may change over time and then assessed future needs for '*comparison'* retail (retail that sells goods that consumers compare before purchasing, goods that are usually higher value and purchased infrequently e.g. furniture, clothing, electronics), and '*convenience'* retail floorspace (retail that stocks a wide range of everyday items e.g. groceries), to 2033.

2.3 In recognising that Centres are moving away from their traditional retail roles, Policy SP12, and its supporting policies seek to ensure that such Centres become the focus of a wider variety of services and facilities. The '*Town Centre First'* approach is key to enabling such Centres to increasingly become multi-functional places and community focal points, thereby rendering them more viable as "go-to" destinations.

2.4 The purpose of this SPG is to expand on the above policies and provide clarity in respect of their future interpretation and application, and setting out what the Council expects from applicants in respect of satisfying the detailed criteria of those policies.

2.5 Development Control Committee was informed of the need to produce a SPG for Retail and Commercial Development on 8th August 2024. Councillor Easterbrook, volunteered to champion production of the SPG for Retail and Commercial Development and has since been working alongside the Principal Strategic Planning Policy Officer to progress the SPG.

2.6 The draft SPG provides updated, specific guidance on:

- *Policy ENT7: Development in the Commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg* – This policy defines Primary Shopping Areas and Secondary Shopping Areas within these three commercial Centres. This policy ENT7 policy seeks to protect these areas to ensure their existing function is not diluted so they can continue to operate as viable shopping Centres. The SPG will provide further clarity on what is deemed acceptable within these named Centres.
- *Policy ENT8: Non-A1, A2 and A3 Outside of Primary Shopping Areas* – The RLDP allows more flexibility to introduce shops, financial/professional services and food and drink uses outside of Primary Shopping Areas. This policy ENT8 explains what other uses may be acceptable in commercial Centres. The SPG will clarify

what uses may be acceptable within commercial Centres outside of Bridgend, Porthcawl or Maesteg.

- *Policy ENT9: Retail Development Outside of Retailing and Commercial Centres* – This policy explains what type of retail and commercial development is acceptable outside of retailing and commercial Centres. The SPG will provide guidance on the loss of retail and commercial floorspace outside of commercial Centres in addition to explaining what types of development would be appropriate on existing retail parks.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 On 11th March 2025, a draft version of the SPG was presented to Cabinet. Cabinet resolved to approve that draft SPG as the basis for a public consultation period of 6 weeks. Cabinet also authorised officers to make appropriate arrangements for that public consultation before reporting the outcome back to Cabinet for approval to send a report to Council to seek adoption of the final SPG.

3.2 A 6-week public consultation period was held from 19 March 2025 to 30 April 2025. The consultation was advertised in the following ways:

- Information on the consultation, including all the documentation, representation forms and how to make representations was placed on the Council's online Consultation Portal.
- Consultation details were sent directly to approximately 140 targeted consultees including all Elected Members, Town and Community Councils, planning consultants, house builders and Registered Social Landlords (**RSLs**).
- A social media campaign was launched to promote the consultation across various social media platforms, aiming to generate awareness throughout the public consultation period. Periodic posts were made on the Council's X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

3.3 At the close of the public consultation period, two representations were received on the draft SPG (one from an Elected Member and one from a planning consultant on behalf of McArthurGlen). These representations, together with the Local Planning Authority's (**LPA's**) responses to the comments raised, are provided in **Appendix 2** to this report. Copies of the full representations are held by the Planning Department and can be viewed on request. Given the extensive publication of the public consultation and direct targeting of consultees, the response rate is considered positive in that there were no wholesale objections to the contents of the draft SPG.

3.4 The representors principally commented on the wording of certain paragraphs. Therefore, only minor amendments to the SPG are considered necessary in light of the comments received. These proposed amendments are now incorporated within the final form draft SPG, which is attached at **Appendix 1**. The paragraphs proposed for amendment following the consultation are detailed in full at the end of **Appendix 2** for ease of reference and include:

- Minor amendment to clearly set out the acceptable uses permitted on edge-of-centre and out-of-centre retail allocations.

- Removal of a specified floorspace limit for small scale ancillary/incidental uses on edge-of-centre and out-of-centre retail allocations to avoid being overly prescriptive. Furthermore, the role of the SPG is to augment and interpret what is already contained in adopted RLDP policies rather than introduce new policies. Any application for ancillary/incidental uses will be judged on a case-by-case basis to determine their appropriateness.

- Minor amendment to the Sequential Test – Assessment Checklist detailed in Appendix B, to require the test to be based on a sound methodology. This will add further detail ensuring that applicants set out a clear methodology with regard to their assessment of the suitability of alternative sites. A sequential test is used to assess the suitability of sites for retail and commercial uses, prioritising development in defined retail and commercial Centres first, followed by edge-out-centre and out-of-centre locations if no suitable alternative sites are available.

3.5 If adopted, the SPG will add weight to the interpretation and application of RLDP Retail and Commercial Development policies, provide more detailed advice and guidance to applicants preparing planning applications and will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (**EIA**) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Retail and Commercial Development SPG will provide additional guidance and material weight to support adopted RLDP Policies and seeks to provide clarity in respect of their future interpretation and application, setting out what the Council expects from applicants in respect of satisfying those policies' detailed criteria. This is a key contributory factor to delivering Local Wellbeing Objective one '*A prosperous place with thriving communities*'.

5.2 The SPG will also contribute to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales – Ensuring retail and commercial Centres are protected, promoted and support a prosperous Wales by ensuring such Centres act as hubs

of socio-economic activity and are the focal points for a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve.

- A resilient Wales – Ensuring retail and commercial Centres are protected, promoted and support a resilient Wales by ensuring such Centres become increasingly multifunctional, which will help to respond to the long-term impacts of Covid-19 and online shopping.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no direct climate change and nature implications from this report, although the SPG will provide additional guidance to ensure that new retail and commercial development is directed to existing retail and commercial Centres, that are well connected by established active travel routes and public transport links. This will help to encourage a sustainable modal shift, reducing carbon emissions that are released from car-borne travel.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

a) Note the contents of the report and the consultation responses received on the draft Retail and Commercial Development SPG, together with resultant amendments, attached as **Appendix 2**.

b) Approve presenting the final form Retail and Commercial Development SPG (**Appendix 1**) to Council to seek its adoption.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough
Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Draft Retail and Commercial Development
Supplementary Planning Guidance
July 2025

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

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Wyndham Street, Bridgend

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is to support and provide further direction on the implementation of the retail and commercial development policies contained within the adopted (March 2024) Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). It outlines further guidance on retail and commercial development to protect the vitality, attractiveness, and viability of the designated retail centres in accordance with the approach outlined in National Planning Policy. This guidance aims to assist applicants and decision makers when considering specific changes of use in retail centres and other town centre developments, in accordance with the policies contained within the RLDP, National Plan 2040 (Future Wales) and in light of other material considerations to ensure the County Borough's retail centres are sustainable in the long term.

1.2 This SPG will be a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications for retail and commercial development including applications for renewal of consents.

1.3 Anyone wishing to submit an application for retail and commercial development within Bridgend County Borough is urged to consider this SPG and to contact the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in advance of submitting a planning application, to discuss the issues that are raised in this document on a site-specific basis.

1.4 The SPG provides specific guidance on:

- Development in commercial centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg (including Primary Shopping Areas, Secondary Shopping Areas and outside of shopping areas but within commercial centres);
- Non A1, A2 and A3 uses in commercial centres outside of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg; and
- Retail development outside of retail and commercial centres.

2.0 Policy and Legislative Context

2.1 The National Planning Policy context for the provision of retail and commercial development through the planning system is set out in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Technical Advice Note 4 November 2016 (TAN4) Retail and Commercial Development.

2.2 **Future Wales: The National Plan** is the National Policy framework setting out the direction for development in Wales to 2040. 'Town Centre First' is a key policy within Future Wales (Policy 6), and it is recognised that the planning system has a long-established role in this respect. Future Wales recognises the need to re-think the future of town and city centres, which are moving away from their traditional retail roles towards more multi-functional places. Town centres remain important focal points of communities and are increasingly becoming places to live, centres of community and cultural activity, a focus for public services such as health and education, and the location of new co-working spaces.

2.3 **PPW (Edition 12)** sets out the National priorities and considerations with regards to new commercial and retail development and for managing change within existing commercial and retail centres. PPW requires local planning authorities to establish through their development plan a clear strategy for retail development, supported by policies, to achieve vibrant, attractive and viable retail and commercial centres. The Welsh Government operates a 'Town Centre First' approach in relation to the location of new retail and commercial centre development (Policy 6, Future Wales, as referred above).

2.4 **TAN 4: Retail and Commercial Development** sets out National Policy and guidance in relation to the changes of use in Primary and Secondary retail and commercial Areas. TAN4 identifies a number of overarching objectives for retail and commercial centres where the planning system must promote viable urban and rural retail and commercial centres as the most sustainable locations to live, work, shop, socialise and conduct business; sustain and enhance retail

and commercial centres' vibrancy, viability and attractiveness; and improve access to, and within, retail and commercial centres by all modes of transport, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.

2.5 **TAN 23: Economic Development (February 2014)** defines economic development broadly so that it can include any form of development that generates wealth, jobs and income, recognising that retail is an economic land use.

2.6 **Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures - Placemaking and The Covid-19 Recovery (Welsh Government, July 2020)** recognises that town centres should become places where a variety of retail, employment, commercial, community, leisure, health and public sector uses come together in a hub of activity to make them viable as go-to destinations. Flexible, local co-working spaces could also be a crucial new element to increase space to work. Residential uses are also key to the vitality of centres, provided that they do not curtail the commercial activities which take place and that noise impacts are considered.

2.7 **Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as Amended) (Use Classes Order 1987)** identifies uses of land and buildings and places them within various categories known as 'Use Classes'. The Use Classes Order 1987 does not contain a definitive list of all the different types of uses of land and buildings but provides broad categories to allow developers and decision makers to understand which Use Class should apply.

2.8 Table 1 sets out the types of uses which would fall under the retail Use Classes contained under Part A Schedule 1 of the Use Classes Order 1987:

Table 1: Retail Use Classes

Use Class	Examples
A1 Shops	Shops, retail warehouses, post office (not sorting offices), hairdressing, undertakers, dry cleaners, pet shops, sandwich bars, showrooms and domestic hire shops.
A2 Financial and professional services	Financial services such as banks and building societies, professional services (other than health and medical services) including estate and employment agencies.
A3 Food and drink	For the sale of food and drink for consumption on the premises – restaurants, snack bars and cafes, drinking establishments and take-aways.

2.9 **Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as Amended) (GPD Order 1995)** identifies that certain types of minor development changes can be made to land and buildings without requiring planning consent. These are known as permitted development rights and are contained within the GPD Order 1995. In relation to proposals involving similar types of Use Classes a change of use to the building or land may not require planning consent. For example, a hairdressers could be changed to a shoe shop without the need for permission as these uses fall within the same 'Class', a restaurant could be changed to a shop or an estate agency as the Use Classes Order allows this type of change to occur without requiring planning permission.

2.10 However, most external building work associated with a change of use is likely to require planning permission, for example new advertising for the new use.

Regarding change of uses which fall under the Use Class A retail uses, Table 2 outlines where a change of use would be considered a permitted development.

Table 2: Permitted Development, Retail Uses

Existing Use	Permitted Change of Use
A2 (professional and financial services) when premises have a display window at ground level	A1 (shop)
A3 (food and drink)	A1 or A2
Sui Generis – Car showrooms and Betting Offices only	A1 Shop
A1 or A2	A1 plus a single flat above
A2	A2 plus a single flat above

2.11 Please note in some areas of the County Borough permitted development rights are more restricted. If the land or building is located in a Conservation Area (including Bridgend Town Centre, Porthcawl Town Centre and Maesteg Town Centre), planning permission will be required for certain types of development works which may not apply in other areas. There are also additional restrictions if a building has been designated as a Listed Building. Furthermore, the existing use may have been permitted but subject to the removal of permitted development rights so that planning consent would be required for the changes of use shown in Table 2. In some instances, a use may have been restricted to a specific user or subject to other limitations, consequently it is important that the planning history of a building or land is fully understood before undertaking any type of permitted development. The LPA offers a pre-application service (details available on the Council's website), which offers advice before a planning application is submitted. This will help to identify issues that may be of relevance to a particular site.

Street Art, Cheapside, Bridgend

3.0 Background

3.1 The RLDP sets out the Council's land use planning policies up to 2033. The Retail Study 2018 (Stantec) formed a key part of the adopted RLDP's evidence base setting out recommendations on retail need (the demand for additional retail floorspace), the distribution of retail need and the definition of "Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas" to inform the policies contained within the adopted RLDP. The Retail Study Update 2022 (Stantec) further analysed trends affecting the retail sector across the County Borough, considered how trends may change over time and then assessed future needs for comparison and convenience retail floorspace to 2033, based on existing market shares. In the consideration of planning applications for retail and commercial development, the following policies are particularly relevant:

- SP12: Retailing, Commercial and Service Centres
- ENT6: Retail and Commercial Development
- ENT7: Development in Commercial Centres
- ENT8: Non-A1, A2 and A3 Uses Outside of Primary Shopping Areas
- ENT9: Retail Development Outside of Retailing and Commercial Centres

3.2 The policies listed above can be viewed within the RLDP Written Statement.

3.3 Policy SP12 promotes specified town, district, and local centres (Centres) as hubs of socio-economic activity and as the focal points for a diverse range of services which support the needs of the communities they serve. These Centres are denoted on the RLDP Proposals Map. Policy ENT7 also defines Primary Shopping Areas (a central part of a retail and commercial Centre where A1 retail uses are concentrated) and Secondary Shopping Areas (located adjacent to or near a Primary Shopping Area that consists of a wider range of uses) located in Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg, which adds an additional layer of protection in defining a retail 'mass' where policy controls apply in respect of retail activity.

3.4 The distribution of shopping facilities in Bridgend fits within the wider regional hierarchy. Cardiff and Swansea are the highest order Centres within the regional hierarchy. As the sub-regional town centre, Bridgend contains the largest number and widest range of shops, services and leisure and is the principal shopping centre for much of the County Borough and some communities outside.

3.5 The other significant town centres of Maesteg and Porthcawl offer a wide range of shops and facilities, including a medium sized convenience offer to meet the needs of their immediate catchment areas.

3.6 District and local Centres within the County Borough usually contain a small foodstore and a range of services which serve a smaller, more limited catchment area. These Centres primarily provide only essential goods available for 'top up' shops.

3.7 The County Borough's retail hierarchy comprising of sub regional, town, district and local Centres is set out in Table 3. This excludes existing *'edge of centre'* and *'out of centre'* retail sites.

Table 3: Retail Hierarchy

Sub Regional Centre	**Bridgend Town Centre**
Town Centres	Maesteg and Porthcawl
District Centres	Aberkenfig (Valleys Gateway); Kenfig Hill, Ogmore Vale, Pencoed, Pontycymmer and Pyle
Local Centres	Bettws North, Bettws South, Blackmill, Blaengarw, Brackla, Broadlands, Bryntirion, Caerau, Laleston, Nantymoel, North Cornelly, Nottage, Pontrhydycyff, Sarn, Verlands Court (Pencoed), Wildmill and Five Bells Road (Bridgend)

Maesteg Market

4.0 Planning Requirements

4.1 Policy ENT7 – Development in Commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg

4.2 Policy ENT7 defines the Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg. Policy ENT7 aims to ensure that commercial centres do not lose their '*critical mass'* of retail units to the extent that they can no longer function as viable shopping centres. This section will clarify how Policy ENT7 applies to Primary Shopping Areas and Secondary Shopping Areas in turn, before providing further clarity on the status of the remaining broader commercial centres.

Primary Shopping Areas

4.3 Primary Shopping Areas are frontages within the town centre which are focussed on providing an opportunity for shopping and therefore the dominant use should be A1 retail. In relation to Primary Shopping Areas, strict criteria need to be met before a change of use to a non-A1 use will be considered as acceptable.

4.4 The following paragraphs will address each policy criterion in turn.

4.5 Policy ENT7: Criterion 1

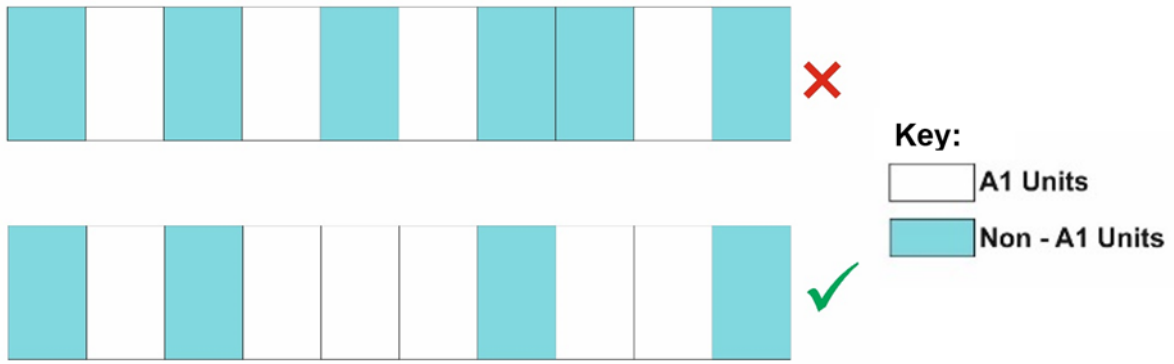
'The development would not, by virtue of its nature, design and scale, materially dilute the continuity of the primary shopping frontage.'

4.6 Proposals which are considered to *'tip the balance'* in terms of diluting the *'critical mass'* of A1 retail frontage will not be supported.

4.7 In determining the impact of a proposed change of use, consideration should be given to the following:

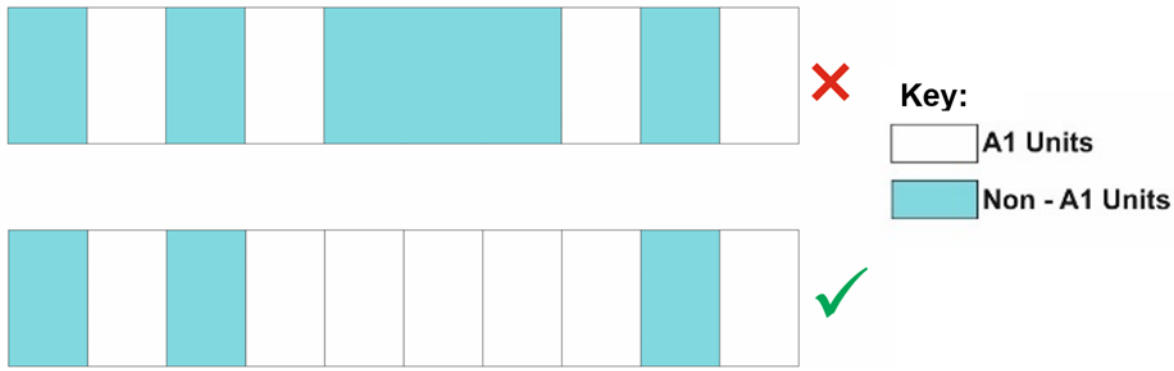
i) **The proportion of non-A1 uses that already exist in the Primary Shopping Area in the street scene and in the frontage within which it is located**. Consideration will be given to where the introduction of another non-A1 use would *'tip-the-balance'* in terms of diluting the '*critical mass'* of A1 uses. Figure 1.1 provides an illustrative example of this dilution effect. This scenario reduces the number of A1 uses, with the non-A1 uses becoming dominant and therefore unacceptable in planning terms. This phenomenon dilutes the primary retail character of the area, reducing its appeal as a shopping destination. Consideration of this dilution effect will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Figure 1.1: Primary Shopping Area Dilution



ii) **The scale and design of a shop front to which the change of use relates.** Whilst the proposal may not numerically 'tip the balance' in favour of non-A1 uses, loss of a large shop front with a prominent design or presence in the frontage can have a significant impact in terms of dilution as illustrated in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Primary Shopping Area Dilution



4.8 Policy ENT7: Criterion 2

'The development would not exacerbate an existing, nor create a new, undue concentration of non-A1 uses.'

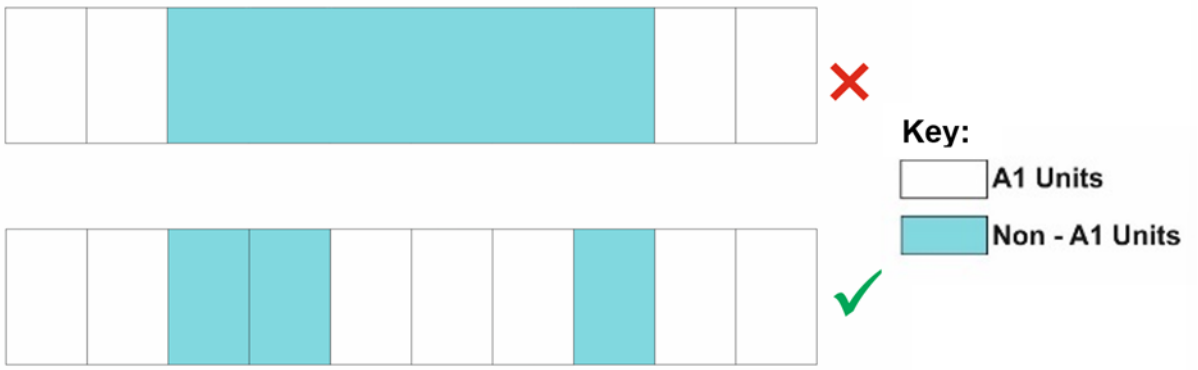
4.9 Criterion 2 is concerned with clusters of non-A1 uses in the Primary Shopping Area. Whilst a change of use might be acceptable in the context of Criterion 1 in terms of the number of units in the frontage as a whole, a number of non-A1 units in close proximity can have a similarly detrimental impact on the frontage.

4.10 When considering applications for a change of use in the context of Criterion 2, applicants should consider the units that surround the proposal and whether the introduction of an additional non-A1 use would create a noticeable 'gap' in the A1 retail frontage. Figure 1.3 provides an illustrative example.

Figure 1.3: Undue Concentration

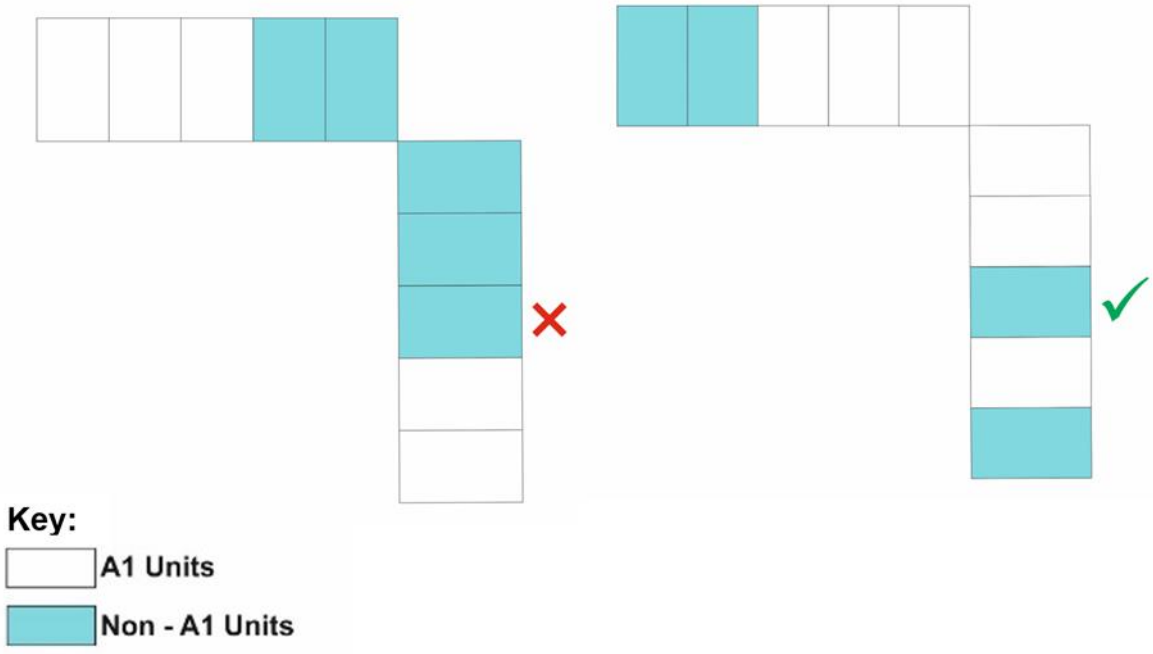
4.11 The impact may be exaggerated by the scale of the shop front. Loss of a large and/or prominent A1 frontage is likely to have an impact far greater than a regular sized frontage as illustrated by Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.4: Undue Concentration



4.12 Additionally, the location of the proposal may be of significance. For example, a proposal which is located in a gateway location and/or on a corner will have a far more noticeable impact as illustrative by Figure 1.5.

Figure 1.5: Undue Concentration



4.13 Policy ENT7: Criterion 3

'The development would not create a dead frontage but would rather stimulate passing trade and maintain public interest.'

4.14 This Criterion 3 relates to individual units. All units in the Primary Shopping Area should seek to create attractive and vibrant shopping frontages of interest to passers-by. A dead window frontage is not only concerned with the design of the frontage (i.e. blank facades or blanked out windows), but it also refers to the operations within the unit. For example, a B1 office use could have a similar dead frontage impact as a blank façade because the operation within the unit may not be of interest to the shopping public and may also be unlikely to operate on the basis of passing trade. A dead window frontage can also be created by A3 hot food takeaway establishments where the operating hours are associated with the nighttime economy and are closed during the daytime operating hours of the town centre.

4.15 However, certain non-A1 uses can maintain the interest of passers-by provided that they are acceptable in the context of the other Policy ENT7 Criteria. For example, A3 cafes and coffee shops which have window displays, outside seating and opening hours consistent with A1 retail operations can introduce an element of vibrancy to the town centre.

4.16 Therefore, consideration should be given to the nature of the use in terms of its operational requirements, opening hours and window displays, which could make the proposal acceptable in accordance with Criterion 3.

4.17 Policy ENT7: Criterion 4

'Individually or cumulatively the proposal would not adversely affect the vitality, viability and character of the centre.'

4.18 Diversity of retail and commercial Centres is the key to their success, and careful attention should be paid to proposals within Centres, which will enhance their vitality and viability. Some proposals can have an adverse effect on a

Centre, damaging both the vitality and viability of the retail and entertainment uses within it.

4.19 Factors that will be considered in the determination of planning applications, to ensure that any loss of A1 floorspace would not undermine the vitality, viability and character of a Centre, include:

- Whether the existing use is surplus to requirements;
- The nature of the proposed use and the contribution to vitality it might bring;
- The number of vacant premises in the Primary Shopping Area or Centre;
- The length of continuous frontage in non-retail use that would be created.

4.20 Policy ENT7: Criterion 5

'The development would not give rise to new, nor materially exacerbate existing, local problems due to traffic generation, congestion, highway safety, noise, smell, crime, anti-social behaviour or other amenity considerations.'

4.21 With regards to traffic generation, congestion and highway safety, town centres are highly accessible locations with ample car parking, therefore small-scale proposals for change of use within the Primary Shopping Area are not likely to have an adverse impact.

4.22 However, for some larger proposals that are likely to generate significantly higher levels or densities of traffic, a traffic statement may be required to support a planning application. Applicants are advised to contact the LPA prior to the submission of a planning application to ascertain what additional information, if any, is required.

4.23 A traffic statement should include information on:

- Likely patron/visitor attraction;
- Staffing levels;
- Parking requirements;
- Potential area of attraction;

- Means of accessing the site by sustainable means i.e. public transport; active travel; and
- A travel plan may also be of benefit, assuming the proposal is large enough to warrant this.

4.24 Any highway infrastructure improvements to cater for an increase in traffic, such as a widened or new footway or a junction or carriageway improvement, should be included as part of the planning application.

4.25 With regards to noise, smell, crime, anti-social behaviour and other amenity considerations, applicants should consider the nature of the proposal, its impact on its surroundings and the impact of the surroundings on the proposal.

4.26 For example, if the proposal was for A3 hot food takeaway use, potential issues relating to noise and smell (generated by the extractor fans or otherwise), in addition to noise and litter generated by customers, will need to be given due consideration.

4.27 Applicants should consider the following:

- Is the land or building located amongst other similar uses?
- Are there residential units in close proximity?
- What opening times will the use be operating within?
- How will the site accommodate delivery to the unit?
- Will the operation offer a delivery service?

4.28 In addition to the above requirements [and considerations], **all developments that involve the loss of an existing A1 use on the ground floor must be actively marketed** prior to submission of a planning application. A marketing strategy (See Appendix 1 for Marketing Strategy Checklist) should be submitted to and agreed by the LPA in advance of any marketing being undertaken. Providing the LPA has approved the marketing strategy in advance and is satisfied that the strategy has been executed appropriately, one year of

marketing will be considered acceptable. Otherwise, the LPA will need to be satisfied that marketing has been undertaken on reasonable terms for at least two years prior to the submission of a planning application. Residential development on the ground floor will not be permitted within Primary Shopping Areas.

Secondary Shopping Areas

4.29 In relation to **Secondary Shopping Areas**, greater flexibility exists to promote a wider range of retail uses to address long-term vacancy rates. Development proposals must be for A1, A2 and A3 unless they satisfy the Criteria under Policy ENT7. Residential development on the ground floor will not be permitted within Secondary Shopping Areas.

4.30 The following paragraphs will address each Criterion in turn.

4.31 Policy ENT7: Criterion a)

'Individually or cumulatively the proposal would not adversely affect the vitality, viability and character of the centre.'

4.32 Diversity of retail and commercial Centres is the key to their success and careful attention should be paid to proposals within Centres, which will enhance their vitality and viability. Some proposals can have an adverse effect on a Centre, damaging both the vitality and viability of the retail and entertainment uses within it.

4.33 Factors that will be considered in the determination of planning applications to ensure that any loss of A1, A2 and A3 floorspace would not undermine the vitality, viability and character of a Centre, include:

- Whether the existing use is surplus to requirements;
- The nature of the proposed use and the contribution to vitality it might bring;
- The number of vacant premises in the Secondary Shopping Area or Centre;
- The length of continuous frontage in non-retail use that would be created.

4.34 Policy ENT7: Criterion b)

'The development would not give rise to new, nor materially exacerbate existing, local problems due to traffic generation, congestion, highway safety, noise, smell, crime, anti-social behaviour or other amenity considerations.'

4.35 This Criterion b) will be assessed in accordance with the guidance detailed under Policy ENT7 Criterion 5 (paragraph 4.20 above).

4.36 Policy ENT7: Development outside of Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas but within the commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg

4.37 Greater flexibility exists within the commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg that are located outside of Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas. New development that provides retail, office, leisure, entertainment, cultural or community floorspace will be permitted within these retailing and commercial Centres as outlined by Policy SP12 (RLDP). Residential development will be encouraged and permitted on the first and upper floors of properties.

John Street, Porthcawl

Well Street, Porthcawl

4.38 Policy ENT8: Non A1, A2 and A3 Uses Outside of Primary Shopping Areas

4.39 Paragraphs 5.4.65 – 5.4.67 of the RLDP provide the rationale behind Policy ENT8, however, it is considered that additional guidance on meeting the policy criteria under this Policy ENT8 would be beneficial to applicants wishing to introduce a non-A1, A2 or A3 use within commercial Centres that do not relate to Bridgend, Porthcawl or Maesteg (See table below).

Table 4: Commercial Centres Outside of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg

District Centres	Aberkenfig (Valleys Gateway), Kenfig Hill, Ogmore Vale, Pencoed, Pontycymmer and Pyle.
Local Centres	Bettws North, Bettws South, Blackmill, Blaengarw, Brackla, Broadlands, Bryntirion, Caerau, Laleston, Nantymoel, North Cornelly, Nottage, Pontrhydycyff, Sarn, Verlands Court (Pencoed), Wildmill and Five Bells Road (Bridgend)

4.40 The following paragraphs will address each Policy ENT8 Criterion in turn.

4.41 Policy ENT8: Criterion 1

'If for residential purposes: a) The premises/floorspace has been vacant for at least two years and has been actively marketed over that time'

4.42 In terms of demonstrating that the premises has been vacant for at least two years, it should be noted that the LPA conducts an annual survey of all retail premises within established town, district and local service Centres.

4.43 As such, the LPA maintains an annual *"snapshot"* of the use and occupancy of each retail unit, which will be used to assist in identifying how long a retail unit may have been vacant for. In addition to the length of any vacancy period, the LPA must be satisfied that the property is no longer required for its retail function. Applicants must therefore provide evidence of the length of time the property has been vacant and demonstrate that the property has been actively marketed on reasonable terms for retail occupancy/sale over that time.

4.44 This will include due consideration as to 'where' and 'how' the marketing has taken place, together with the advertised sale price/rent compared to comparable properties within the locality.

4.45 It should be noted that the LPA will require evidence to demonstrate the requirements under paragraph 4.41 above, which may include letters of instruction to agents; published letting/sales material and/or photographic evidence (See Appendix 1 for the 'Marketing Strategy Checklist').

4.46 In some Centres, it is acknowledged that existing retail and commercial uses may have only been operating for a short period of time. Where applicants can robustly demonstrate that this is the case and that a long-term residential use was previously established, a more pragmatic approach may be adopted for residential development proposals following an investigation into the nature and duration of the existing use.

4.47 Policy ENT8: Criterion 1

'If for residential purposes: b) The premises/floorspace does not form part of a purpose-built retail environment or a continuous frontage of three or more existing commercial units.'

Purpose-built retail environments refer to those retail sites which have been developed to meet a specific retail need. Examples include shopping Centres such as Brackla Local Service Centre or retail centres which were developed to specifically serve a housing development such as the Broadlands Local Service Centre.

4.48 Policy ENT8: Criterion 2

'*If for other purposes: The proposal does not involve the loss of existing A1 floorspace.'*

4.49 In terms of the acceptability of uses other than A1, A2 and A3 within the boundaries of existing retailing and commercials Centres; developments that

provide office, leisure, entertainment, cultural or community floorspace will be permitted within these retailing and commercial Centres, providing the proposal does not involve the loss of occupied and operational A1 floorspace.

4.50 The final requirement of Policy ENT8 Criterion 2 states:

'Wherever possible, proposals for a change of use of existing floorspace must be designed so as not to prejudice a future conversion back to a retail or commercial use.'

4.51 It is accepted that changes of use to residential cannot practicably retain a retail frontage within its final design. However, non-retail commercial uses should wherever possible limit the external alteration to the unit to retain its external appearance. This would limit the visual impact of the change of use on the street scene and enable the unit to re-use its primary A1, A2 or A3 retail function, should the non-retail use vacate the property, without unnecessary complication and costs.

4.52 Policy ENT9: Retail Development Outside of Retailing and Commercial Centres

4.53 The first requirement of Policy ENT9 of the RLDP states:

'Development proposals outside of Retail and Commercial Centres that result in the loss of retail and commercial floorspace will only be permitted where there is proven to be other sufficient provision locally or where the premises/floorspace has been vacant for at least 12 months and has been actively marketed over that time.'

4.54 It is recognised that local shopping facilities play an important role in serving local communities and their provision can mean a vital service is provided to local people. The loss of a single retail store to another use could lead to a deficit in provision locally. Policy ENT9 seeks to ensure that any loss of shopping facilities serving local communities outside of retail and commercial Centres will not lead to an under-provision in the area. Applicants must demonstrate that there is other sufficient provision locally. The LPA will

undertake a check of the surrounding area to determine whether there is sufficient local provision to justify the loss of retail use. If there is no other local provision, applicants proposing a loss of local retail use must demonstrate that the property has been actively marketed for at least 12 months prior to the submission of a planning application. The LPA will need to be satisfied that marketing has been undertaken on reasonable terms and, as a minimum, would require sales particulars and information from sales/letting agents to be submitted as part of an application (See Appendix 1 for Marketing Strategy Checklist). Examples of uses that are considered to offer a local convenience service, include but are not limited to the following:

- Newsagent/convenience store
- Bakery
- Café/restaurant/hot food takeaway
- Post Office
- Pharmacy

4.55 Policy ENT9 also states:

'Retail development outside of Retail and Commercial Centres will be concentrated at the following existing locations:'

Location	Acceptable Uses	Type
Bridgend Retail Park	Bulky Comparison & Convenience	Out-Of-Centre
Waterton Retail Park	Bulky Comparison & Convenience	Out-Of-Centre
Sainsbury, Cefn Hirgoed	Convenience	Out-Of-Centre
Tesco, Brewery Lane	Convenience	Edge-Of-Centre
Tesco, Llynfi Lane, Maesteg	Convenience	Edge-Of-Centre
Bridgend Designer Outlet Village	Controlled by s106	Out-Of-Centre

4.56 Whilst Proposals for new out-of-centre retail will not be encouraged, Policy ENT9 acknowledges the presence of existing retail developments outside of Town, District and Local Centres. Retail development at these locations defined in Policy ENT9 will be restricted to the acceptable uses outlined in the table above, by means of appropriate planning conditions and/or legal agreements. . Extensions within the boundaries of these locations, increases to the allocated floorspace or relaxations/changes to the types of goods sold, may require a needs test, sequential test and retail impact assessment, as detailed within National Policy (TAN4: Retail and Commercial Development / PPW), depending on the nature of the proposal and the potential impacts. This will also apply to planning applications which seek to vary conditions to change the types of goods sold from sites at these locations or the subdivision of units, both of which could potentially undermine the vitality and viability of town and district Centres if not properly controlled.

Bridgend Designer Outlet

4.57 In respect of the 'types' of bulky comparison goods that are likely to be permitted at Bridgend and Waterton Retail parks, these are defined as:

- Carpets and flooring;
- Baby and toddler equipment;
- Cycles and accessories;
- DIY and home improvements;
- Electrical and other durable goods;
- Footwear;
- Gardening items and equipment;
- Sports camping and leisure goods (excluding clothing);
- Textiles and soft furnishings;
- Toys, games and hobbies;
- Vehicle and motorcycle sales;
- Vehicle accessories; and
- Bulky food and drink outlets.

4.58 In general terms, the LPA considers that the above list reflects accurately what could be considered as *'bulky'* and is the starting point in determining whether it is a *'bulky'* item or not, although this is not an exhaustive list. As a further guide in determining acceptability the following two questions are useful:

1) *Can the item fit within a bag and be easily carried around a town or district Centre?*
   (The purpose of allowing out-of-centre retailing for bulky items is because the items, by their very nature do not allow easy movement between shopping units and require the use of a car within close proximity of the store to transport items with them).

2) *Are there other stores already located within any of the town and district Centres which sell similar items?*
   (If there are stores selling similar items within a town, district or local Centre already, this could be used as an indication that an *'out-of-centre'* location is not required).

4.59 Whilst there have been subsequent variations of conditions based on individual circumstances, the above list (paragraph 4.57), remains the basis for determining what constitutes a *'bulky'* item in the above described retail parks and will be the starting point in determining planning applications on those retail parks.

4.60 Proposals for non-Bulky goods

4.61 As highlighted above, development within allocated *'edge of centre'* and *'out of centre'* locations will be restricted to specific goods that would not typically be sold from premises within a Centre. The tests of *'retail need'*, 'Sequential' approach and impact will apply to the consideration of **all development proposals** at *'edge of centre'* and *'out of centre'* locations.

4.62 Proposals for ancillary and incidental uses such as Use Class A3 (food and drink) floorspace within designated *'out of centre'* locations will be restricted to small scale provision that supports the primary retail function of the wider site, or comprises a facility that due to its operational and functional requirements cannot reasonably be accommodated within a Centre. Ancillary and incidental uses will be judged on a case-by-case basis and will not be permitted if judged to give rise to a critical mass.

4.63 Class D2 (leisure) proposals will only be permitted at *'out of centre'* locations if the applicant demonstrates that there is no viable prospect of the proposed scheme being accommodated within the retailing, commercial and services hierarchy outlined under Policy SP12 (RLDP), as required by the Sequential Test (used to assess the suitability of sites for retail and commercial uses, prioritising development in defined retail and commercial centres first, followed by *'edge of centre' locations*, and finally '*out-of-centre'* locations if no suitable alternative areas are available) (See Appendix 2 for Checklist).

4.64 Leisure uses will not be permitted at these locations if judged to give rise to a critical mass and range of facilities that pose a threat to the future vitality, viability and attractiveness of the retail, commercial and district Centres. The

policy aim is to protect the threat of *'out of centre'* allocations becoming *'all round destinations'* for customers to have such a range and opportunity for retail and leisure experiences that it negates the need to undertake any separate visit to existing retail, commercial and district Centres.

4.65 Certain proposals have operational requirements that cannot reasonably be accommodated within Centres. A *'drive through'* restaurant/café proposal, for example, represents a Class A3 operation that, due to its circulation requirements and size constraints, would not typically be located within a Centre and may instead be accommodated within an *'out of centre'* allocation.

Appendix A: Marketing Checklist for Applicants

Marketing Requirement	Further Information
Period of Marketing	
1. Has the site and/or premises been actively and comprehensively marketed for its current and/or last permitted use for the minimum continuous period specified in the relevant RLDP Policy?	Marketing is required under Policy ENT7: (RLDP): *Development in Commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg* (Supporting paragraph 5.4.62) for the change of use from A1 to non-A1. Marketing is required under Policy ENT8: (RLDP): *Non-A1, A2 and A3 Uses Outside of Primary Shopping Areas* for the change of use from non-A1, A2 or A3 to residential.
Flexibility of use	
2. Does the marketing include marketing of the site/premises on a freehold as well as leasehold basis?	The purpose of marketing the freehold of a site and/or building is to increase the likelihood of sale by enabling potential purchasers to use it for a wider range of future uses than if they rented or purchased the site/building's leasehold.
Forms of marketing	
3. Advertising board posted in a prominent location on site throughout the period of marketing. The board should include contact information and be clearly visible. Photographic evidence should be provided with the application and/or pre-application enquiry.	
4. Registration of the property with at least one commercial property agent. The site should be continuously included on the commercial agent's website over the period of the marketing campaign. The site/premises should also be advertised on commercial property search sites and online advertising portals.	The requirement for registration with at least one commercial agent is a Minimum. The LPA will expect to see evidence of a range of methods of advertising throughout the required marketing period in order to demonstrate wide market exposure and an active approach to marketing. This may include mailshots, printed and online advertising (see point below) and use of a number of commercial agents.

5. Have details of where and how often the site was advertised, with copies of all printed advertisements placed and web pages, including publication dates, been supplied?	Any advertisements on websites should appear continuously throughout the required marketing period.
Price and terms	
6. Has evidence of the asking price and/or rent at which the property has been offered been included in the marketing statement?	
7. Has the site/premises been independently valued by at least two independent agents and marketing at a reasonable and competitive guide sale price and lease amount and terms that reflects its current value taking into account the current state of the property (including in relation to use, condition, quality and location of floorspace) and local sales/rents? Evidence of the above should be provided with the application and/or pre-application enquiry.	
8. Have details of any reductions in price throughout the marketing period also been recorded and included with the valuation evidence referred to in question 7?	Note: This information should be provided to indicate the price and/or rent at which the property has been offered.
9. Does the marketing statement include the number and detail of enquiries and/or offers received for the site/premises, reasons for refusal of any offers and reasons why any offers fell through?	
10. Does the marketing statement include the reasons for prospective tenants not making an offer and/or taking up the space, and how these problems have been addressed?	
11. Have the dates and periods for each individual marketing activity been clearly shown on the marketing statement?	

Appendix B: Sequential Test - Assessment Checklist for Applicants

Sequential Assessment	Further Information
1. Description of the proposed use	
2. The size of the unit	Whether existing or proposed
3. The area covered by the sequential search	
4. Justification for the area search	If it is less than Borough-wide or limited to particular types of centres
5. The types of units searched for	
6. Justification for any limitations applied to the types of units considered	
7. A list of the alternative, available, sequentially preferable units identified	• This list should set out the address and size of the unit and if it is suitable or not. The suitability of a unit should be based on a sound methodology and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. • If a unit is unsuitable, full justification and evidence should be provided alongside the listing. • A conclusion as to whether the Sequential Test is met, looking at both the availability and suitability of those sites to accommodate the proposal. • If the Sequential Test is not met, an explanation of any overriding material considerations that would justify the grant of planning permission.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Representations, Responses and Resultant Action

Do you have any comments on the proposed guidance for Policy ENT7: Development in Commercial Centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg detail in Section 4	
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	The draft SPG sets out specific measures concerning the interpretation of Policy ENT7 in order to promote the vitality and viability of Bridgend town centre. These should be applied flexibly to enable the centre to respond to those changes in shopping patterns that have occurred over the last five years, both as a result of the pandemic and the shift towards online shopping. It should be noted that these changes have affected outlet centres as well, particularly given the growth in the availability of online outlet shopping channels. It is important that these flexible measures are applied without unnecessary burden in order to support a dynamic and changing retail environment, as well as to support alternative uses within centres. This is promoted at page 71 of Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 under the supporting text to Policy 6: *'The principle of 'Town Centre First' is well established in planning policy in relation to retail developments. However, good planning can help us re-think the future of town and city centres, which are moving away from their traditional retail roles.'* This approach ought to apply in equal measure to other centres, including Bridgend Designer Outlet Centre, in order for it to also remain vital and viable and to continue to act as an important tourist attractor and to maintain the aforementioned synergy.

Local Planning Authority Response	Policy ENT7 specifically deals with development within the commercial centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg, of which does not include edge-of-centre or out-of-centre allocations such as Bridgend Designer Outlet Centre. Any proposal that relates to Bridgend Designer Outlet Centre will be assessed against Policy ENT9 and uses specified by the associated Section 106 Agreement. Policy ENT7 takes into account the impacts of both the pandemic and the shift towards online shopping recognising that centres are moving away from their traditional retail roles. This policy ensures that these centres do not lose their 'critical mass' of retail units to the extent that they can no longer function as viable shopping centres. However, there is sufficient flexibility embedded within this policy and other policies to enable such centres to become multifunctional places and community focal points, thereby rendering them more viable as go-to destinations in light of the impacts of the pandemic and shift towards online shopping.
Resultant Action	No action necessary – the SPG provides supplementary information and guidance in respect of the adopted RLDP policy framework, but it cannot introduce new policies or change the policies in the adopted RLDP. Furthermore, there is considered to be sufficient flexibility embedded into Policy ENT7 and other retail and commercial policies contained within the RLDP. Policy ENT7 does not relate to out of town retail provision such as Bridgend Designer Outlet Centre.
Do you have any comments on the proposed guidance for Policy ENT9: Retail Development Outside of Retailing and Commercial Centres detailed in Section 4	
Organisation	BCBC Elected Member
Representation	I request that, where a commercial premises such as a corner shop is located in a residential area, then any application to instal a parcel locker system adjacent to the premises should be subject to a planning condition which restricts its use to match the agreed permitted opening hours of the business in question. Such a condition would address problems of additional traffic generation and associated overnight noise and disturbance experiences by neighbours.

Local Planning Authority Response	Comments noted. Whilst it is beyond the scope of the policy and this SPG to include specific guidance on parcel locker systems, planning conditions can be attached to future planning consents to control the operating hours of parcel lockers in circumstances where it is deemed to be necessary and appropriate. This would ensure that the local planning authority would retain effective control over the hours of operation of the business in the interests of general amenity.
Resultant Action	No amendments necessary – this issue can be addressed at the planning application stage through the use of appropriate conditions.
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	Paragraph 4.56 identifies that retail development at the locations defined in Policy ENT9 will be restricted to bulky goods retailing. The paragraph should be amended to confirm that the Outlet Centre will not be restricted to bulky goods, as these, as I am sure you will be aware, are not the prevailing range of goods that are sold from the centre. We suggest that the reference to bulky goods sales be referenced specifically to the retail parks listed.
Local Planning Authority Response	Comments noted. As drafted, the current wording of paragraph 4.56 states that retail development at the locations defined in Policy ENT9 are restricted to bulky goods retailing of which is misleading. As such, further clarity will be made to paragraphs 4.56 and 4.61 to ensure that the acceptable uses on edge-of-centre and out-of-centre allocations are clearly outlined.
Resultant Action	Paragraphs 4.56 and 4.61 will be amended to clarify the permitted uses on edge-of-centre and out-of-centre retail and commercial allocations.
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	We are supportive of paragraph 4.62, which sets out support for ancillary/incidental A3 uses at out of centre retail destinations. We would however suggest that the reference to ‘200 sqm’ be amended to read ‘in the region of’ 200 square metres so to be less prescriptive. Given that every planning application is considered on its own merits it is not considered appropriate (or necessary) for the Council to impose a specified floorspace limit, as this may act as a moratorium to certain

	development, even if the applicant was able to demonstrate compliance with the impact and sequential tests. The guidance set out in 4.64 on critical mass will likely assist in controlling total A3 provision in any of the identified out of centre locations, were a further proposal to arise.
Local Planning Authority Response	Support for paragraph 4.62 is noted. The representor's suggestion to amend paragraph 4.62, specifically requesting a change in wording from '200sqm' to 'in the region of 200sqm' is acknowledged. Furthermore, the purpose of the SPG is to augment and interpret existing adopted RLDP policies. As such, removal of a specific floorspace figure is considered appropriate in this instance, and any proposed ancillary and incidental use on an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre allocation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis regarding its appropriateness.
Resultant Action	Paragraph 4.62 will be amended to be less prescriptive regarding the size of ancillary/incidental uses at edge-of-centre and out-of-centre retail allocations, making it clear that each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	We are supportive of paragraph 4.63 and 4.64, which relate to D2 uses.
Local Planning Authority Response	Noted.
Resultant Action	No amendments necessary.
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	What is important, and what we consider is missing from this section of the draft SPG, is reference to other appropriate commercial uses that would also be considered small-scale/ancillary and incidental to the primary retail function of the out of centre destination listed. Examples would include A2 (Financial and professional services) uses, e.g. a bank, and D1 (Non-residential institutions) uses, e.g. a crèche. Such uses are provided in smaller units than those typically provided in the retail warehouse parks identified, so their inclusion in this section of the SPG might be more appropriate with specific reference to Bridgend Designer Outlet only.

	There is no reason why such uses should be considered differently to the A3 and D2 uses listed and there would be a clear synergy with the primary purpose served by the Outlet Centre with those additional Use Classes identified above and when taking into account the critical mass point. In this regard, we are mindful that the Council has supported the provision of a bureau de change unit (Use Class A2) at Bridgend Designer Outlet under planning permission ref. P/15/774/FUL. Here, it was identified in the officer's report that: *'The proposed installation of a kiosk to provide money exchange facilities will, it is considered, be ancillary to the main retail uses contained within the centre and therefore not significantly change the character of the centre.'*
Local Planning Authority Response	The representor's suggestion to reference additional examples that could also be considered small-scale/ancillary and incidental to the primary retail function of the edge-of-centre and out-of-centre allocations is acknowledged. The policy aim is to avoid 'out of centre' allocations becoming 'all round destinations' for customers with such a range and opportunity for retail and leisure experiences that they would negate the need to undertake any separate visit to existing retail, commercial and district centres. This would be considered out of accord with the 'Town Centre First' approach outlined in national planning policy. However, it is acknowledged that a limited number of appropriate uses can support or complement the primary retail function. Further detail will be included in the supporting text to clarify that uses that are ancillary and incidental (not exclusively those operating under Use Class A3) to the primary retail function of the wider site will be permitted where appropriate, while clarifying that each proposal will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Resultant Action	Paragraph 4.62 will be amended to clarify that uses which are considered to be ancillary and incidental to the primary retail function of an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre retail allocation will be judged on a case-by-case basis to determine their appropriateness.
Do you have any comments on the proposed Sequential Test – Assessment Checklist for Applicants detailed in Appendix B?	
Organisation	NTR Planning Ltd (on behalf of McArthurGlen)
Representation	This section is helpful but perhaps lacking in detail. In undertaking any sequential test (where relevant) it is necessary to consider whether any alternative site is suitable for the broad nature of development proposed, as established by well documented case law. Whilst suitability is referenced in the 'Further information' part of the table, it is normal practice for an applicant to set out a methodology in undertaking an assessment. Whilst unit size is referenced in the table, there are other factors that would inform a judgement on the suitability of any alternative site as part of the applicant's methodology. These details could be incorporated or referenced in the draft SPG for clarity, or at least reference to the requirement of the test to be based on a sound methodology. For retail development, examples might include: 1. the ability of any alternative site to accommodate a specified minimum site size. 2. the ability of any alternative site to accommodate a store of a specified minimum gross floor area. 3. the ability of any alternative site to the safe manoeuvring of customer vehicles and delivery vehicles. 4. the ability of any alternative site to offer a viable trading environment. 5. the ability of any alternative site to be easily accessible by a choice of means of transport. 6. the ability of any alternative site to be able to provide suitable servicing arrangements to enable deliveries. Clearly, each case would be considered differently based on the requirements of the proposal under consideration.

	We consider that the appendix be expanded to include reference to ‘methodology’ and expand on matters relating to ‘suitability’ on a ‘case-by-case basis’, with reference to ‘established case law’.
Local Planning Authority Response	Support for the sequential test assessment checklist for applicants is noted. The sequential test assessment checklist provides guidance to prospective applicants, clarifying the necessary information to support a planning application for a proposal on an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre allocation, that should in the first instance be located within a designated centre as per the retailing, commercial and services hierarchy outlined by Policy SP12 of the RLDP. The representor recommends adding further detail, specifically making reference to the requirement of the test to be based on a ‘sound methodology’. The representor also suggests introducing several additional factors to expand upon the suitability criteria of any alternative site. Whilst this is acknowledged, the inclusion of such criteria is considered too prescriptive and would vary based upon the nature of the proposed use. However, in the interests of providing further detail, the appendix will be amended to make reference to the requirement for all assessments to be based on a sound methodology.
Resultant Action	Appendix B – Sequential Test Assessment Checklist for Applicants will be updated to include a reference to the requirement that the test be based on a sound methodology in relation to the suitability of alternative sites.

Proposed SPG Changes as a Result of the Consultation

The paragraphs proposed for amendment following the consultation are detailed below, for the reasons explained in the previous table. Strikethrough text is used to indicate proposed deletions from the SPG, whereas blue text is used to indicate proposed additions to the SPG. Only paragraphs proposed for amendment are included below, there are no proposed changes to the remainder of the draft SPG following consultation. The final draft version of the SPG (Appendix 1) incorporates the proposed amendments below.

4.56 Whilst Proposals for new out-of-centre retail will not be encouraged, Policy ENT9 acknowledges the presence of existing retail developments outside of Town, District and Local centres. Retail development at these locations defined in Policy ENT9 will be restricted to ~~bulky goods retailing~~the acceptable uses outlined in the table above, by means of appropriate planning conditions and/or legal agreements. ~~Policy ENT9 respects the specific role and function of sites at these locations, which can provide a complementary role to town and district Centres by providing opportunities for large format, bulky goods retailing that does not compete with 'in-Centre' trading.~~ Extensions within the boundaries of these locations, increases to the allocated floorspace or relaxations/changes to the types of goods sold, may require a needs test, sequential test and retail impact assessment, as detailed within National Policy (TAN4: Retail and Commercial Development / PPW), depending on the nature of the proposal and the potential impacts. This will also apply to planning applications which seek to vary conditions to change the types of goods sold from sites at these locations or the subdivision of units, both of which could potentially undermine the vitality and viability of town and district Centres if not properly controlled.

4.61 As highlighted above, development within allocated *'edge of centre'* and *'out of centre'* locations will be restricted to ~~the sale of predominantly bulky goods, and/or other goods~~ specific goods that would not typically be sold from premises within a Centre. The tests of *'retail need'*, 'Sequential' approach and impact will apply to the consideration of **all development proposals** at *'edge of centre'* and *'out of centre'* locations.

4.62 Proposals for ancillary and incidental uses such as Use Class A3 (food and drink) floorspace within designated 'out of centre' locations will be restricted to small scale provision that ~~is ancillary and incidental to~~supports the primary retail function of the wider site, or comprises a facility that due to its operational and functional requirements cannot reasonably be accommodated within a Centre. Proposals for ancillary and incidental uses will be judged on a case-by-case basis and will not be permitted if judged to give rise to a critical mass. ~~'Small scale', for the purposes of this policy refers to a facility less than 200 sqm gross floor area.~~

Appendix B: Sequential Test – Assessment Checklist for Applicants

Sequential Assessment	Further Information
1. Description of the proposed use	
2. The size of the unit	Whether existing or proposed
3. The area covered by the sequential search	
4. Justification for the area search	If it is less than Borough-wide or limited to particular types of centres
5. The types of units searched for	
6. Justification for any limitations applied to the types of units considered	
7. A list of the alternative, available, sequentially preferable units identified	• This list should set out the address and size of the unit and if it is suitable or not. The suitability of a unit should be based on a sound methodology and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. • If a unit is unsuitable, full justification and evidence should be provided alongside the listing. • A conclusion as to whether the Sequential Test is met, looking at both the availability and suitability of those sites to accommodate the proposal. • If the Sequential Test is not met, an explanation of any overriding material considerations that would justify the grant of planning permission.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**SECTION 19 REPORT FOR UNNAMED STORM OF 6TH AND 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**KEVIN MULCAHY - GROUP MANAGER HIGHWAYS & GREEN SPACES**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the Council's Policy Framework and Procedure Rules as a result of this report.**
Executive Summary:	**The report informs Cabinet of the outcome of an investigation into the flooding experienced at a number of properties within the Bridgend County Borough as a consequence of an unnamed storm on 6th and 7th of September 2024.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of an investigation into the flooding experienced at a number of properties within the Bridgend County Borough as a consequence of an unnamed storm on 6th and 7th of September 2024.

2. Background

2.1 On 6th and 7th of September 2024, Bridgend County Borough was impacted by an extreme weather event. The Met Office did not designate the storm as a named storm.

2.2 The threshold recommended by Welsh Government (WG) in the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management for investigations, as outlined in Section 19 of Flood and Water Management Act 2010, is where 20 or more properties are affected in one area.

2.3 The thresholds referred to above were not met in regard to required numbers of properties flooded. However, due to the extent and impact of the event in the Brackla, Bryntirion and Bridgend areas, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) opted to

undertake a review of the events and produce a combined Section 19 report for the three locations which advises the investigations carried out and any subsequent actions associated with risk management authorities such as LLFA, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

2.4 It should be noted that all incidents for flooding are investigated by the Land Drainage and Coastal Management team, to identify the causes of the flooding. Additionally, contact is made with the relevant Flood Risk Management Partners should the identified cause of the flooding be with their asset.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The flooding incidents/locations with the largest impact to properties were recorded at: -

- Caer Castell, Brackla – 10 Properties
- Hafan-Y- Bryn, Bryntirion – 7 Properties
- Greenfields Avenue/Park Court Road and Oaklands Close Bridgend – 11 properties

3.2 All the locations referred to within the report were not linked, other than through the storm event, and were not caused by the same asset issues. Consequently, they cannot be classed as a single flood event that meets the threshold for an individual Section 19 flood report.

3.3 Due to the number of incidents it was considered appropriate to complete a combined Section 19 report (attached as Appendix 1). The report outlines the results of investigations into the causes of the flooding at the identified locations and includes action plans and, if appropriate, interventions to mitigate against future flooding.

3.4 By way of update to the actions identified in the Section 19 report the following is advised:

- Caer Castell House, Brackla
  - Funding of £20,000 awarded by WG to BCBC in April 2025 for construction of a bund to mitigate potential overtopping of the watercourse.

- Hafan Y Bryn, Oaklands Close, Western Court & Park Court Flats Greenfields Avenue and Park Court Road, Bryntirion
  - Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Funding to investigate options for mitigation under one project - Nant Cefn Glas Flood Mitigation Study and funding has been approved up to £104,883 by Welsh Government in June 2025.

3.5 Further to the flooding of 6/7th September 2024, Bridgend County Borough experienced a further severe weather event overnight on 13/14th June 2025, that affected areas of Bridgend including Aberkenfig, Brackla, Bryntirion, Garth, Maesteg and Nantyfyllon. Flooding occurred from all sources – main rivers, ordinary watercourses, drainage systems. Whilst this incident will be the subject of a separate investigation and Section 19 report it should be noted that this separate event impacted properties that had been subject to the weather event of September 2024, resulting in internal flooding of properties. For these recent events, consideration will be made on measures that may need to be actioned, such as hydraulic analysis and flood mitigation of the Brackla catchment and funding applications to Welsh Government.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 BCBC is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A summary of relating to the five ways of working and how they connection to the Corporate Well-being Objectives is below:

- Long-term: To consider flooding events and seek long term interventions where appropriate.
- Prevention: To inform where appropriate measures could be considered in mitigating future events
- Integration: The investigation seeks to mitigate future flooding and economic impacts
- Collaboration: Working with other responsible parties as advised in as outlined in Flood Water management Act.
- Involvement: Engaging with communities in flood events to understand the circumstances that may have led to the flooding event

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the report, the actions identified in the action plan will be completed using existing resources.

8.2 Funding bids have been made and accepted by Welsh Government to investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk in the area and introduce mitigation measures .

- Funding of £20,000 awarded by WG to BCBC in April 2025 for construction of a bund to mitigate potential overtopping of the watercourse at Caer Castell House.
- Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Funding to investigate options for mitigation under one project - Nant Cefn Glas Flood Mitigation Study and funding has been approved up to £104,883 by Welsh Government in June 2025.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the Section 19 report attached as Appendix 1.

Background documents:
None

Bridgend County Borough Council

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Section 19 Flood Investigation Report

Unnamed Storm – 6th to 7th September 2024

Document Verification

Document Ref – FRM – S19 – 06&07/09/2024 - 01

Revision Status – Final

Date – 14th March 2025

Author – Team Leader Coastal & Flood Management

Checker – Highways Network Manager

Approver – Group Manager - Highways & Green Spaces

This report should be read in its entirety

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA). The Council assumes no responsibility or liability from any person in connection with its contents or findings.

1.0 Introduction

As Lead Local Flood Authority, Bridgend County Borough Council's Flood & Coastal Management team provide support to residents and businesses who may be or are affected by flooding in Bridgend County Borough by investigating potential causes of flooding and where appropriate initiating schemes to mitigate or alleviate flood risk.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the team responded to 753 advised concerns (ranging from hydraulic overload of networks to blockages within drainage assets), completed 51 culverted watercourse surveys and delivered 2 Welsh Government (WG) funded schemes to mitigate flood risk to communities.

This Section 19 report has been prepared in response to the number of properties that were subject to internal flooding during a storm event on 6th /7th September 2024.

1.1 Purpose of Investigation

On the 6th & 7th of September 2024, Bridgend County Borough was impacted by an extreme weather event. The Met Office did not designate the storm as a named storm. The threshold recommended by WG in the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management is for investigations, as outlined in Section 19 of FWMA, where 20 or more properties are affected in one area. However, due to the extent and impact of the event in the Brackla site, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) opted to include an investigation of the Brackla properties

Whilst the storm resulted in widespread flooding within Bridgend Borough and residential flooding within Bridgend town. This report focuses on residential flooding within the areas of Brackla and Bryntirion in Bridgend.

The reason behind BCBCs investigation is in response to the duties of the local authority regarding Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which states:

1. "on becoming Aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

a) "Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and,
b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in the response to the flood."

2. "When an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must (a) publish the results of its investigation, and (b) notify any relevant risk management authority"

The Risk Management Authorities in the borough of Bridgend are Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which has an oversight role for flooding from main rivers and the sea, Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW) which has an oversight role for flooding from public sewers/potable water mains and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), as LLFA, which has an oversight role for flooding from Ordinary Watercourses, surface water and groundwater.

Note that although these organisations are responsible for managing flood risk, this does not mean that they are liable for damage caused by flooding. Property owners

have a responsibility for protecting their properties and for clearing watercourses and rivers where they are the riparian owner.

Under Section 19 Sub-section (2) the Council liaises with the other Risk Management Authorities, in the course of investigations, records the investigation details and will produce and publish an annual report of investigations undertaken to comply with the requirements of the FWMA.

Whilst local information is recorded, due to the restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Act the published report will not identify individual properties; or property owners but will be restricted to the number of incidents investigated, identification of the Risk Management Authority (RMA) with oversight role, the type of flooding experienced and any action taken.

Information recorded will be retained and used in the review of Flood Risk Assessment for the Borough, including identification of any remedial works to drainage systems under the control of the Council and potential improvements to drainage systems and/or operations.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine which RMAs have relevant flood risk management functions and which functions have been exercised in response to a flood.

This initial report covers the flooding during 6th/7th September 2024; it only includes reference to those flooding incidents of which the Council is aware and will be included in a report to Cabinet.

1.2 Site Locations

The areas investigated within this report covers the Bridgend suburbs of Brackla and Bryntirion, both located within Bridgend town catchment of the County Borough, refer to Figure 1 below.

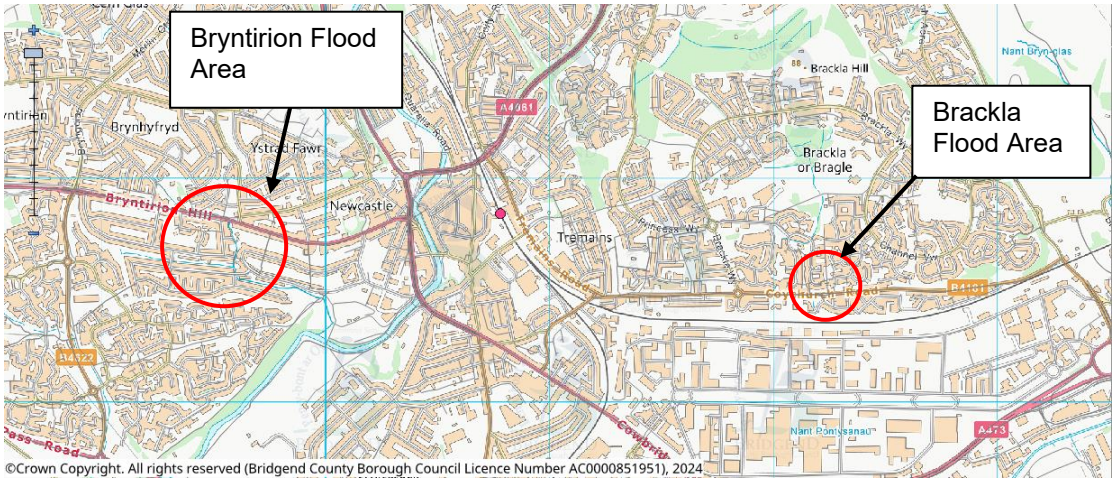


Figure 1 – Flood Investigation Areas

1.2.1 Bryntirion

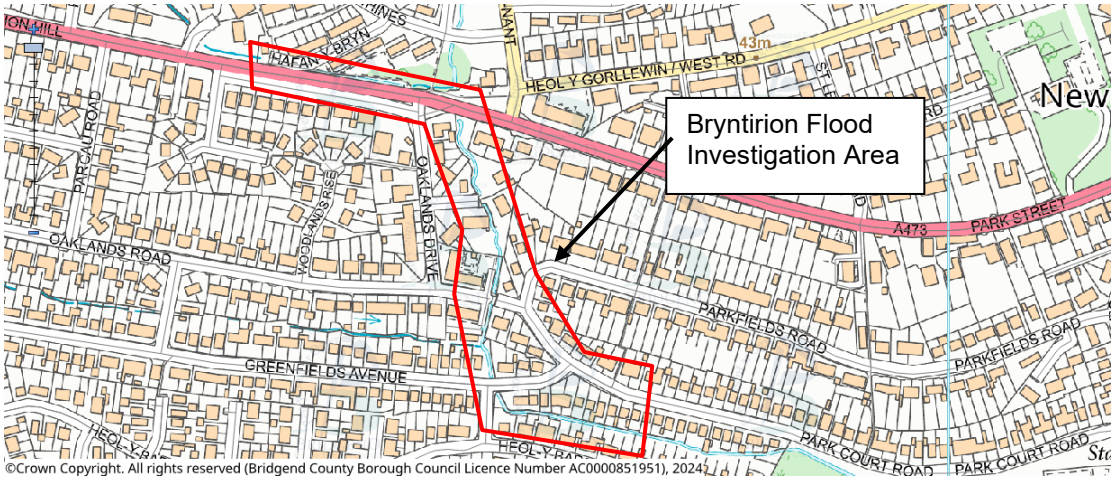


Figure 2 – Bryntirion Flood Investigation Area

The Bryntirion suburb sits west of Bridgend town centre, which primarly consists of residential developments bordering the area. The Nant Cefn Glas flows north to south from the Cefn Glas area north of Bryntirion, before draining east from Bryntirion to the River Ogmore via the low lying Newbridge fields. Sections of the Nant Cefn Glas are culverted beneath highways, including Park Street/Bryntirion Hill, Oaklands Close & Greenfields Avenue, which fall within the investigation area. The Nant Cefn Glas is classfied as an ordinary watercourse and the River Ogmore is classified as main river.

Flood risk is generally associated with the Nant Cefn Glas, notably from culvert inlets and bank breaches. A high and medium flood risk is present across a large proportion of the investigation area, as illustrated in Figures 3, 4 & 5 which are extracts from the NRW Flood Map For Planning.

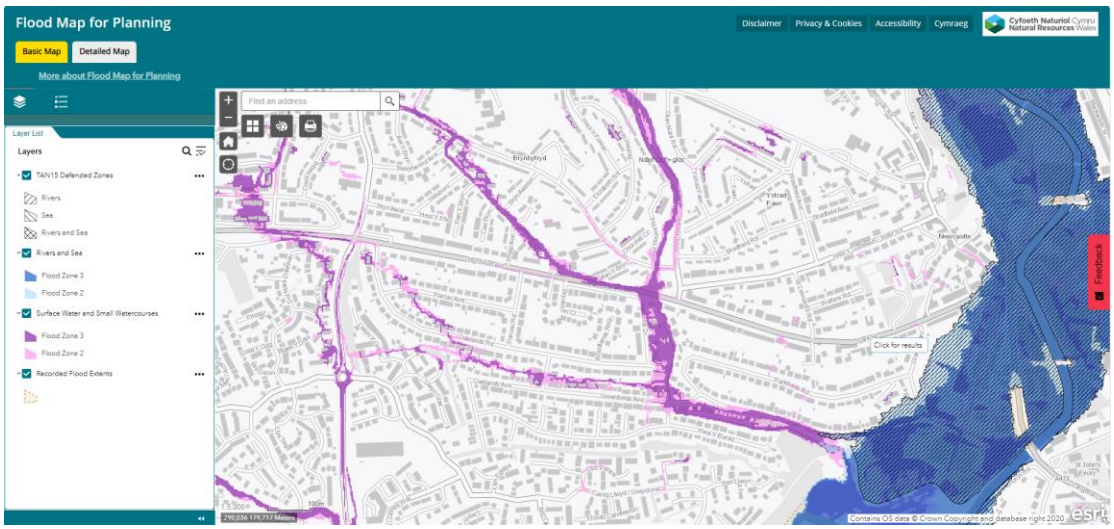


Figure 3 – NRW Flood Map for Planning - Bryntirion

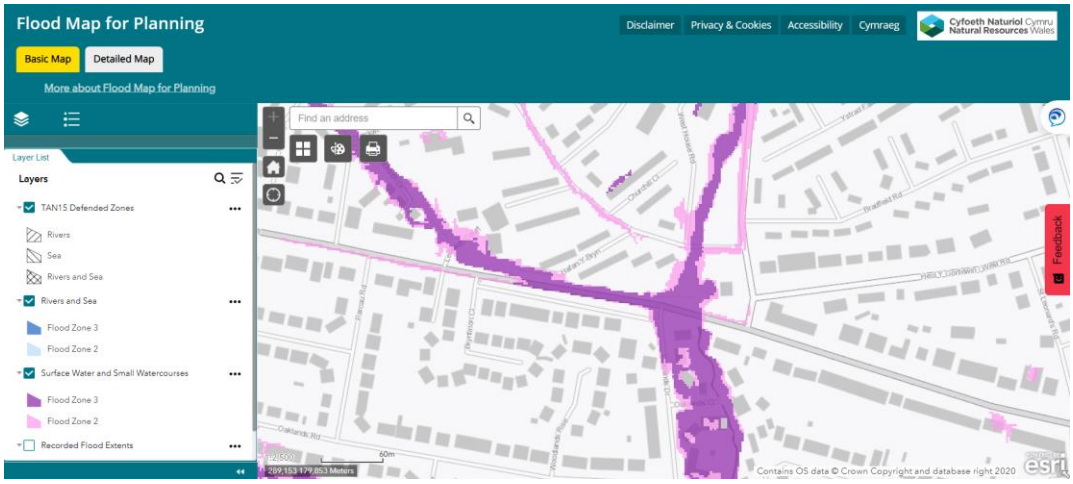


Figure 4 – NRW Flood Map for Planning - Bryntirion

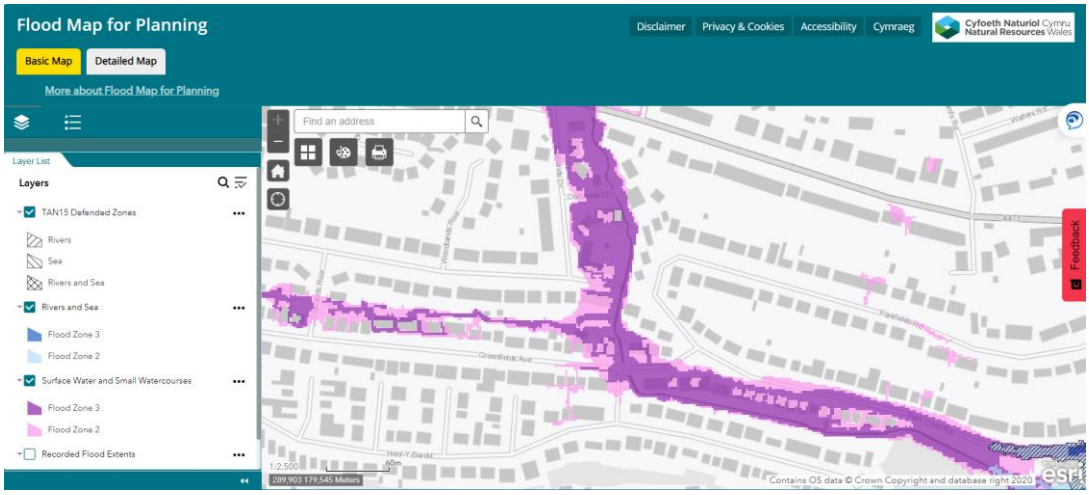


Figure 5 – NRW Flood Map for Planning - Bryntirion

The surface water drainage system that serves the investigation area is that of the highway drainage network designed to manage the surface water within the highway and public surface water sewer and combined sewer network operated by DCWW.

1.2.2 Brackla

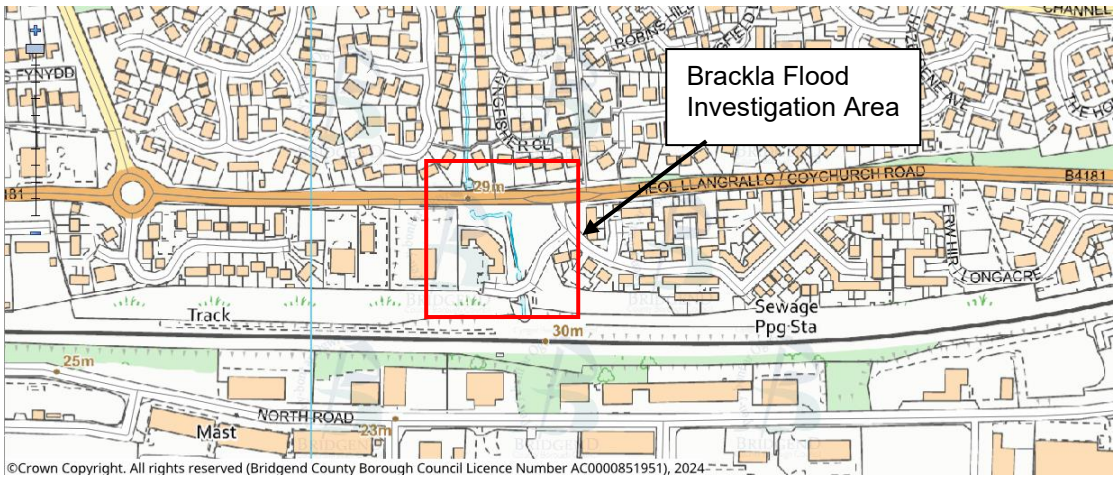


Figure 6 – Brackla Flood Investigation Plan

The Brackla suburb sits east of Bridgend town centre, which primarly consists of residential developments bordering the area and an industrial estate located south of the railway line. The Nant Pontysanau flows north to south from higher ground within Brackla woods towards the flood investigation area. The watercourse diverts around the Caer Castell House development, before heading south beneath the railway line through Bridgend industrial estate before discharing to the the River Ewenny. Sections of the Nant Pontysanau are culverted beneath Coychurch Road (public highway), Private road acessing the properties and the Main Swansea/Paddington railway line, which fall within the investigation area. The Nant Pontysanau is classfied as an ordinary watercourse and the River Ewenny is classified as main river.

Flood risk is generally associated with the Nant Pontysanau, notably from culvert inlets and bank breaches. A high and medium flood risk is present across the majority of the investigation area, as illustrated in Figures 7 & 8, which are extracts from the NRW Flood Map for Planning.

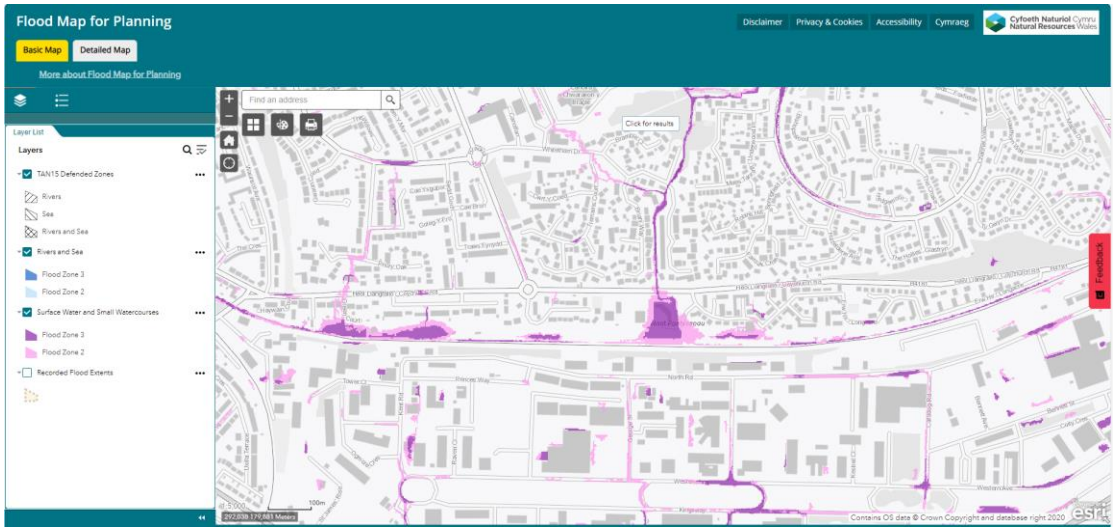


Figure 7 – NRW Flood Map for Planning

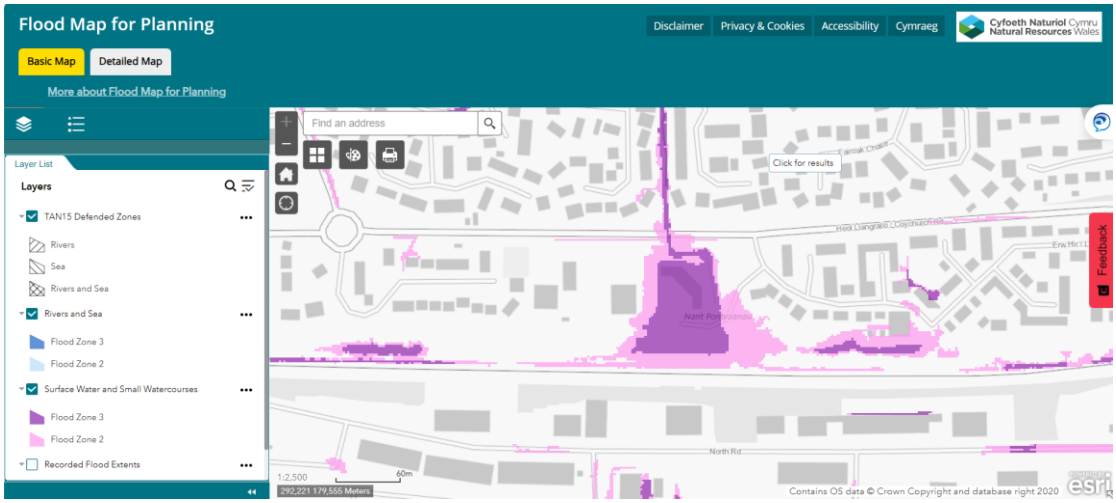


Figure 8 – NRW Flood Map for Planning

The surface water drainage system that serves the investigation area is that of the highway drainage network designed to manage the surface water within the highway and public surface water sewer and combined sewer network operated by DCWW

1.3 Investigation Evidence

To support the investigation, a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence has been gathered from numerous sources, the summary of which is listed in Table 1.

Source	Data
Residents	Residents Photos, videos, statements, emails
Responders' statements	Local responders' statements
Met Office Data	Weather Warning information
Rain Gauges	NRW operated rain gauge information
Natural Resources Wales	River Level and Flood Warning data
BCBC Flood Risk Management Plan	Site specific information and data for each electoral ward in BCBC
Communities at Risk Register	Flood risk ranking and scores for all flood types based on community data in Wales
Flood Investigation Report	The Flood Investigation Report as part of the Section 19 report.

Table 1: Investigative evidence gathered in preparation of this Section 19 report

1.4 Public Engagement

Due to the volume of calls received by BCBC's Out of Hour department, visits were prioritised to those areas experiencing significant internal flooding to residential properties, however some properties had already experienced significant internal flooding.

Following the initial flooding event that occurred on the weekend of the 6th & 7th September 2024, flood risk officers from the BCBC Flood Risk Management department were deployed from Monday 9th September to areas across the borough to investigate reports of internal flooding by residents. Residents engaged with the Flood Risk Management team to determine the initial impacts caused by the flooding event and to investigate the potential source(s) and pathway(s) of flood water during the event.

2.0 Storm Event & Rainfall Analysis

On Wednesday 4th September, the Met Office issued a weather warning for thunderstorms and heavy rain, which stated *"Outbreaks of heavy rain are expected widely across southern England and southern Wales on Friday. Heavy rain will be persistent for some and may be particularly heavy in a few places. Rainfall totals of 15-30 mm are expected widely, however, the wettest areas are likely to see 40-60 mm through the whole of Friday with a lower likelihood of a few areas seeing as much as 75-100 mm. This heavy rain follows on from an expected wet day across some similar areas on Thursday which will increase the likelihood of impacts. There is also the potential for further spells of heavy rain across parts of the south over the weekend".*

The weather warning was issued for east of England, East Midlands, London & south east England, south west of England, West Midlands, as well as large parts of south Wales that included Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan.

This followed weather warnings issued on Monday, September 2, where the Met Office issued a warning for thunderstorms and heavy rain for the whole of Wales, with a similar weather warning covering Wednesday, September 4 until Thursday, September 5.

On receipt of the yellow weather warning on Monday 4th October, BCBC's DLO mobilised resources to inspect all priority culvert inlets across the borough for any evidence of damage and/or obstruction. Maintenance teams were deployed, and drainage infrastructure subsequently cleansed in response to any observed obstructions identified upon inspection.

Rainfall during the storm event was recorded at the Brackla rain gauge which is owned and maintained by NRW. The location of the rain gauge in relation to the flood investigation areas is shown in Figure 9. A summary of the rainfall recorded at the Brackla rain gauge during the storm event of the 6th & 7th September 2024 is shown in Tables 2 & 3 and Figures 10 to 13.

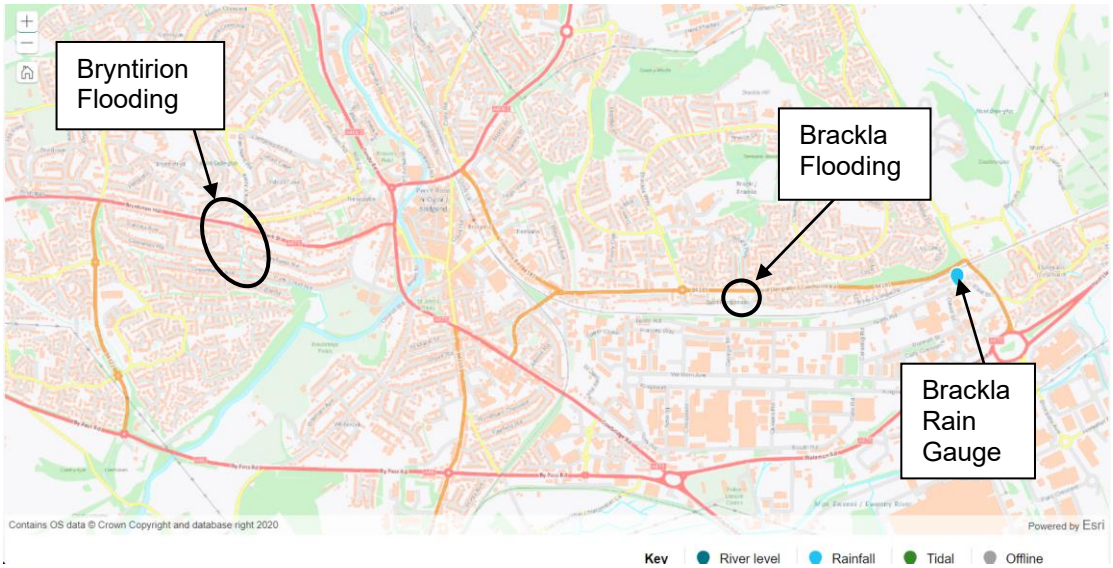
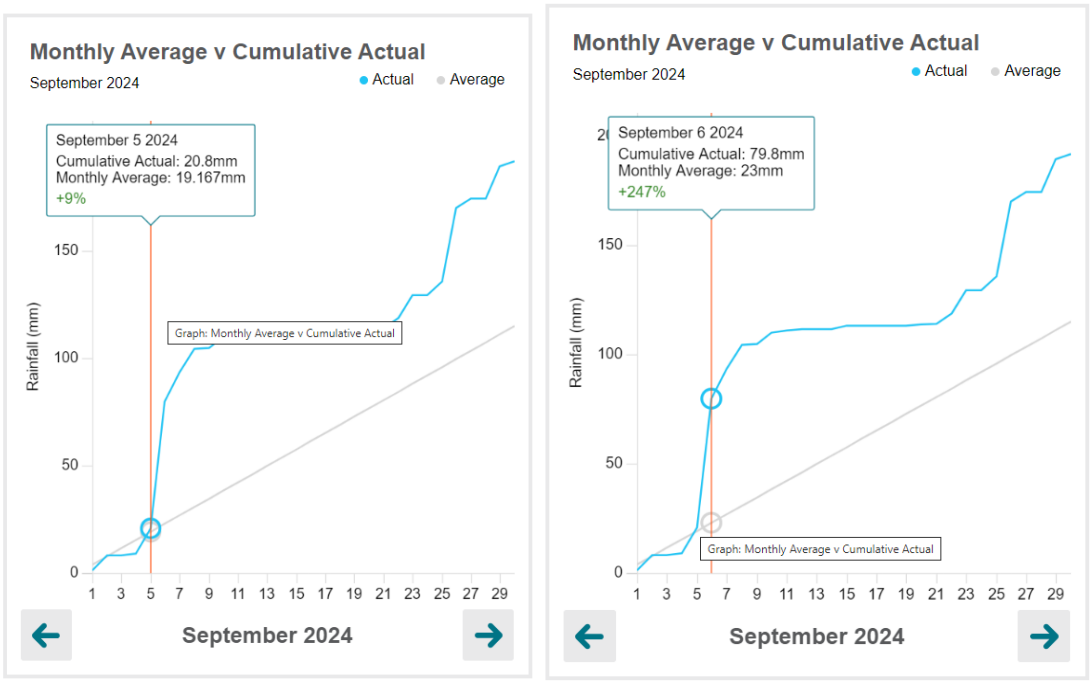


Figure 9 – NRW Brackla Rain Gauge Location

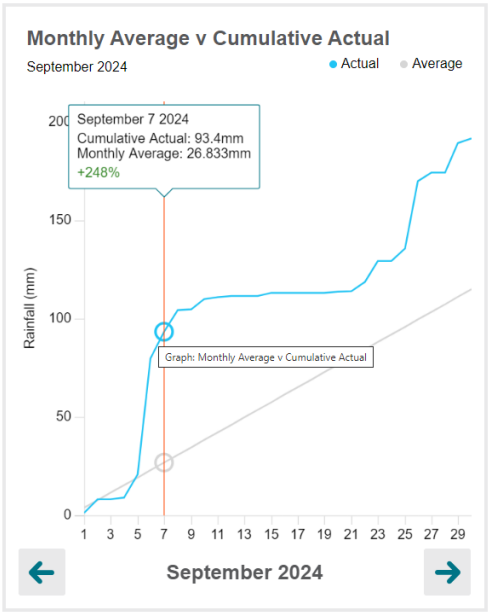
NRW Rainfall Monitoring Station	Date & Time of Peak Intensity	Rainfall (mm)	Cumulative Rainfall (mm)
Brackla	6/9/2024 18:00 to 19:00	0.4	0.4
Brackla	6/9/2024 19:00 to 20:00	16	16.4
Brackla	6/9/2024 20:00 to 21:00	3.6	20.0
Brackla	6/9/2024 21:00 to 22:00	21.6	41.6
Brackla	6/9/2024 22:00 to 23:00	8.2	49.8
Brackla	6/9/2024 23:00 to 00:00	3.2	52.8
Brackla	7/9/2024 00:00 to 01:00	1.6	54.6
Brackla	7/9/2024 01:00 to 02:00	1.2	55.8
Brackla	7/9/2024 02:00 to 03:00	0	55.8

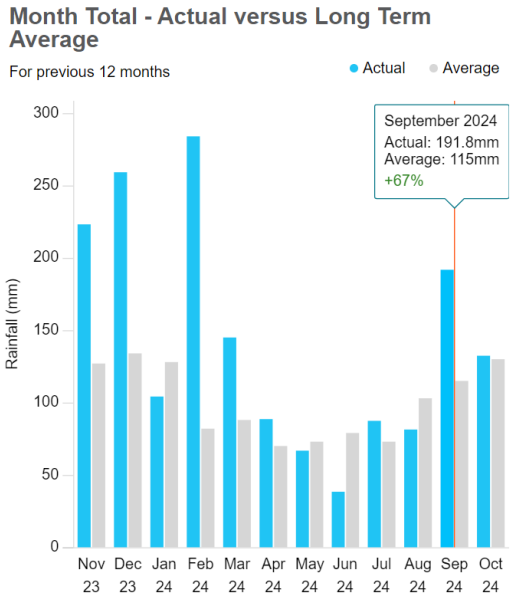
Table 2 – NRW Brackla Rainguage Rainfall Data

Table 2 identifies two single hour periods with intense rainfall recorded with 16mm falling between 19:00 to 20:00 and another 21.6mm falling between 21:00 and 22:00, with 55.8mm falling during the storm event between 18:00 on the 6th September to 02:00 on the 7th September.



Figures 10 & 11 – NRW Brackla Rain Gauge Rainfall Data





Figures 12 & 13 – NRW Brackla Rain Gauge Rainfall Data

Figures 10 to 13 show the cumulative rainfall identified from the Brackla rain gauge. A large spike in rainfall is identified between the 5th & 7th September which ties into the rainfall recorded during the storm event in Table 2. Table 3 below identifies the daily rainfall totals recorded during the storm and the days leading to and after the storm. The cumulative rainfall for September is shown on the last row of Table 3

Date	Recorded Daily Rainfall (mm)	Cumulative Recorded Rainfall from 1st September 2024 (mm)
4th September 2024	0.8	9
5th September 2024	11.8	20.8
6th September 2024	59	79.8
7th September 2024	13.6	93.4
8th September 2024	11	104.4
30th September 2024	2.4	191.8 (September average rainfall typically 115mm)

Table 3 – Recorded Daily Rainfall

Figure 4 overleaf identfies all NRW rain guages located in close proximty to Bridgend. Table 4 identifies the recorded rainfall at these locations on the 6th & 7th of September. The Brackla rain gauge recorded rainfall data suggests that this location recorded over 20mm additional rainfall on the 6th Setpember and also recorded two hourly rainfall peaks of 16mm and 21mm compared to the one hour of peak rainfall of 10mm recorded at the Blaenogwr rain gauge during the same storm.

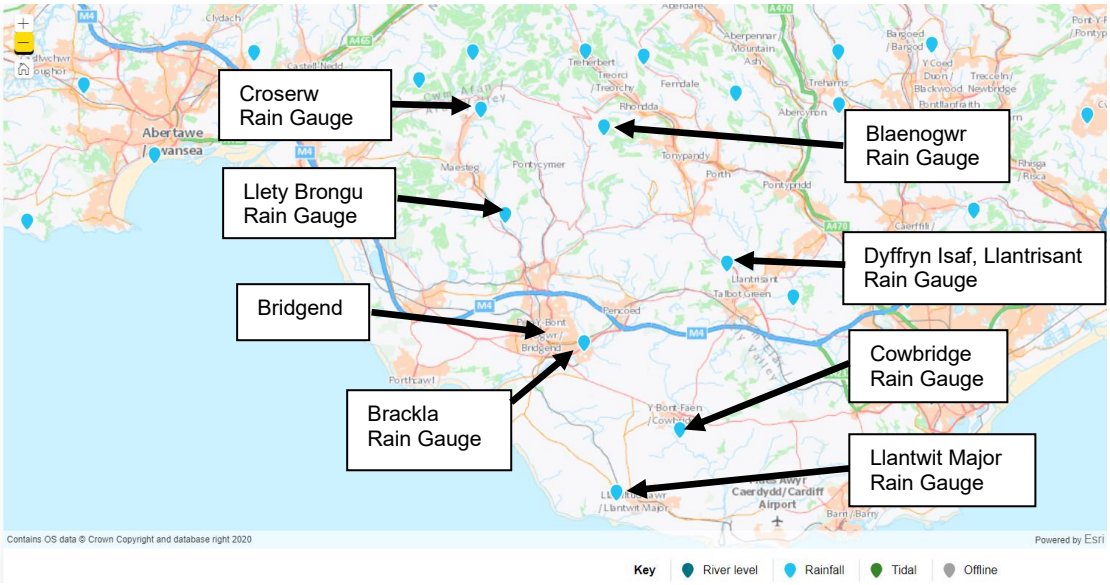


Figure 14 – NRW Rain Gauge Locations

Rain Gauge	6th September Cumulative Rainfall (mm)	7th September Cumulative Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainfall over storm 6th & 7th September (mm)	Peak Rainfall in 1 hour during 6th Sept & 7th Sept (mm)
Brackla (Bridgend)	61.6	11.8	73.4	16mm 19:00 to 20:00 9.8mm in 15mins at 19:15 21.6mm 21:00 to 22:00 10.6mm in 15mins at 22:00 6th Sept 2024
Llety Brongu (Llynfi)	21.6	22.4	44.0	8.2mm 23:00 to 00:00 6th Sept 2024
Croserw (Llynfi)	25.0	28.8	53.8	6.6mm 00:00 to 01:00 7th Sept 2024
Blaenogwr (Ogmore)	40.6	23.6	64.2	10.2mm 23:00 to 00:00 6th Sept 2024
Cowbridge (Vale of Glamorgan)	18.2	7.2	25.4	5.6mm 21:00 to 22:00 6th Sept 2024
Llanwit Major (Vale of Glamorgan)	17.2	6.0	23.2	3.2mm 21:00 to 22:00 6th Sept 2024
Dyffryn Isaf Llantrisant (RCT)	36.6	11	47.6	11mm 22:00 to 23:00 6th Sept 2024

Table 4 – NRW Rain Gauges Rainfall Data

From reviewing the rainfall data from NRW's Brackla rain gauge it has been identified that approx. 50mm of rainfall fell between 7pm and 11pm on the evening of the 6th September 2024. The Brackla rain gauge is located in close proximity to the flood investigation sites and would be considered to provide a good representation of the level of rainfall experienced in the vicinity. An analysis of the rainfall data recorded at other rain gauges also suggests more localised heavy rainfall occurred in Bridgend compared to elsewhere.

Consequently, it is considered that the rainfall levels experienced by this storm is one of the more intense encountered in recent years.

3.0 Flooding History

3.1 Previous Flood Incidents

Brackla

Incidences of flooding to properties within the flood investigation area have occurred on the 2nd November 2012 and 6th September 2024. The flooding incident on the 2nd November 2012 was due to a blockage at the inlet to the culverted watercourse crossing beneath the railway line which is under the land ownership of Network Rail. Both flooding incidents have led to internal flooding to 10 No. properties and external flooding to the residential car park causing damages to cars parked during each storm event.

Bryntirion

Previous incidences of flooding to properties within the wider investigation area have occurred over the past twenty years, often in relation to the network of ordinary watercourses and culverted infrastructure which convey a substantial volume of water from the Cefn Glas suburb and through Bryntirion. Dates of flooding incidents are listed below:

- 28th August 2008 – 1 property;
- 3rd September 2008 – 1 property;
- 5th September 2008 – 1 property;
- 12th September 2008 – 1 property;
- 5th September 2010 – 1 property;
- 16th July 2011 – 1 property;
- 6th September 2024 – 24 properties.

3.2 Flood Incident – 6th & 7th September

The flooding that occurred on the 6th & 7th of September 2024 at Brackla and Bryntirion suburbs of Bridgend was a result of an unnamed storm which caused widespread flooding to several streets within the borough of Bridgend.

The Out of Hours officers attended a number of locations that reported flooding issues during the storm event on the 6th & 7th September, which are listed below:

- Moorlands Road, Bridgend;
- Elm Crescent, Bryntirion;
- Greenfields Avenue, Bridgend;
- GWR, Coity Road;
- Western Court, Oaklands Drive;
- Castle View, Bridgend;
- Wetherspoons, Dunraven Place, Bridgend;
- 4 Oaklands Close, Bridgend;
- Hafan-y-Bryn;
- Chestnut Way;
- A48 Stormy down to Redhill Roundabout;
- Porthcawl Road South Cornelly, near Quarry entrance;
- New Road. Porthcawl;

- Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl;
- Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl;
- A473 Bryntirion Hill;
- A4063 Coytrahen;
- Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg;
- Abergarw Road Brynmenyn;
- Parkcourt Road, Bridgend;
- Porthcawl Road, North Cornelly;
- Haywain Roundabout, Brackla;
- Bryngolau, Bryntirion;
- Heol-y-Frenhines, Bryntirion.

The post event inspections undertaken on the days following the storm event by BCBC's Flood Risk Management Team identified 34 residential properties suffered from internal flooding.

A summary of the source(s) and pathway(s) of flooding within the investigation area during the unnamed storm on the 6th & 7th September 2024 have been outlined in Table 5 and further described throughout this section.

Flood Location	Source	Pathway(s)	Receptor(s)
Caer Castell House, Brackla	Intense rainfall feeding ordinary watercourse	Surcharging flood water from ordinary watercourse	Flow path from overland flows from Nant Pontysanau contributed to internal flooding to 10No. Properties
Hafan-y-Bryn, Bryntirion	Intense rainfall feeding ordinary watercourse Culvert inlet west of Hafan Y Bryn	Surcharging flood water from inlet of culverted watercourse flowing down Hafan Y Bryn	The flow path towards Hafod Y Bryn caused internal flooding to 7No. properties.
Oaklands Close, Bryntirion	Intense rainfall feeding ordinary watercourse Culvert Inlet in private land off Oaklands Close	Surcharging flood water from inlet of culverted watercourse on Oaklands Close	Flow path from overland flows from watercourse contributed to internal flooding to 1 No. Property at Oaklands Close and external flooding to 2 No. properties at Oaklands Close
Great Western Court Flats & West Road Flats	Intense rainfall feeding ordinary watercourse Culvert inlet in private land off Oaklands Close	Overland flows from Oaklands Close culverted watercourse flowing through private land towards flats.	Flow path from overland flows from watercourse contributed to internal flooding to 5 No. flats over both locations and flooding to garages
Greenfield Avenue/Park Court	Intense rainfall feeding ordinary	Surcharging flood water from inlet of	Flow path from overland flows from

Road	watercourse	culverted watercourse on Greenfield Avenue Overland flows along highway following natura topography to properties on Park Court Road.	watercourse contributed to internal flooding to 11 No. residential properties

Table 5 – Summary of the source(s), pathway(s) and receptor(s) affected during the unnamed storm on 6th & 7th September 2024 in Bryntirion & Brackla

3.2.1 – Caer Castell House Flooding Incident

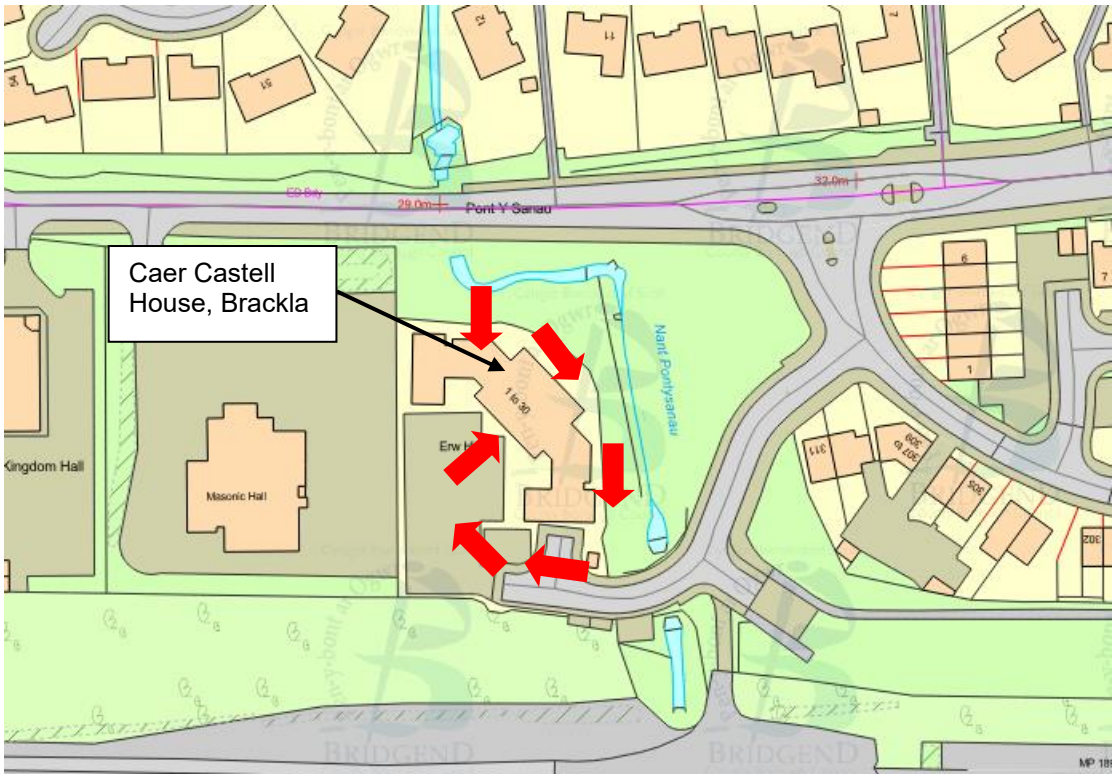


Figure 15 – Caer Castell House, Brackla assumed flood exceedance route

Figure 15 outlines the assumed flood exceedance route during the storm event where flows overtopped the embankment of the ordinary watercourse. The flood exceedance route has been determined following discussions with residents and on-site investigations.

3.2.2 – Bryntirion Flood Incident

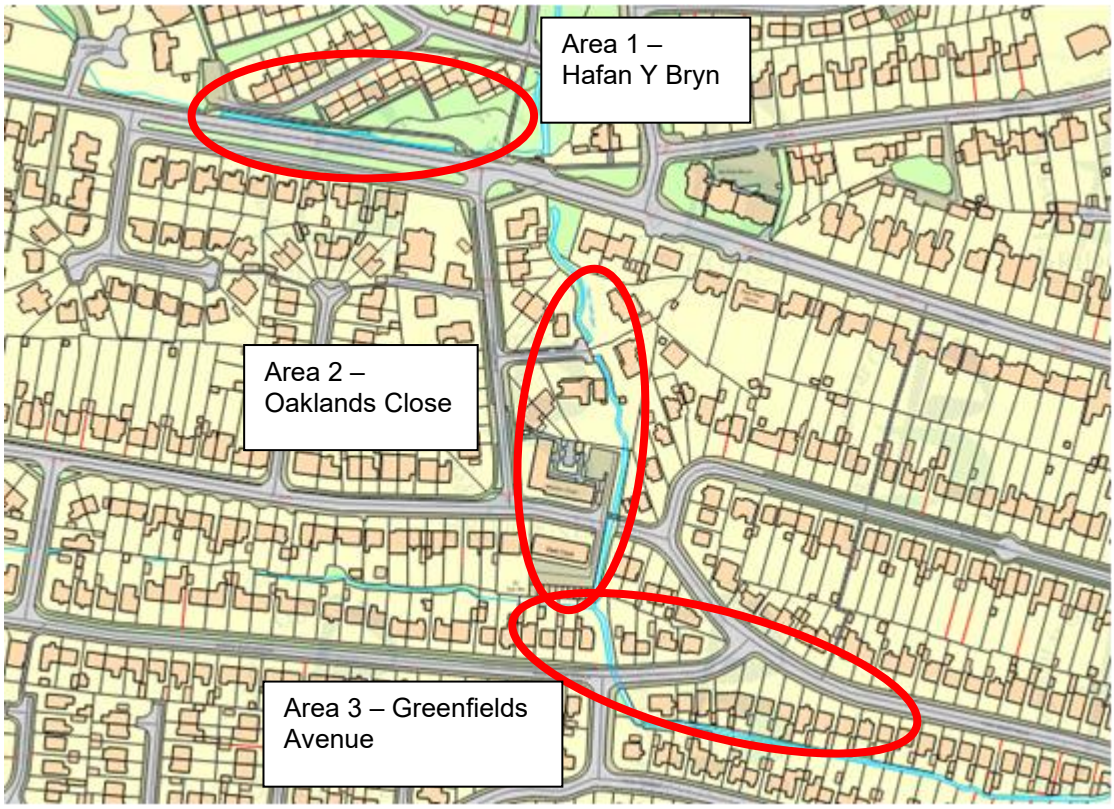


Figure 16 – Bryntirion Flood Areas

Figure 16 outlines the flood investigations areas in the Bryntirion area, which have been divided into three areas, Hafan Y Bryn, Oaklands Close/Western Court Flats/Park Court Flats and Greenfields Avenue/Park Court Road.

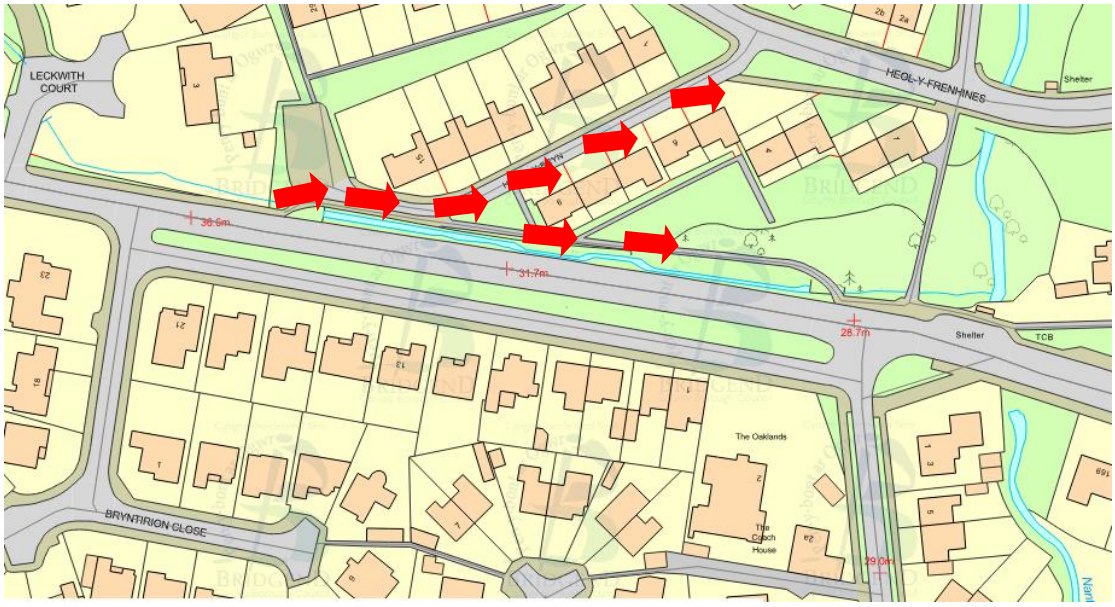


Figure 17 – Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion assumed flood exceedance route

Figure 17 outlines the assumed flood exceedance route at Hafan Y Bryn during the storm event. The flood exceedance route has been determined following discussions

with residents and on site investigations. Flows appear to have exceeded the capacity of the culvert inlet to the west of Hafan Y Bryn.

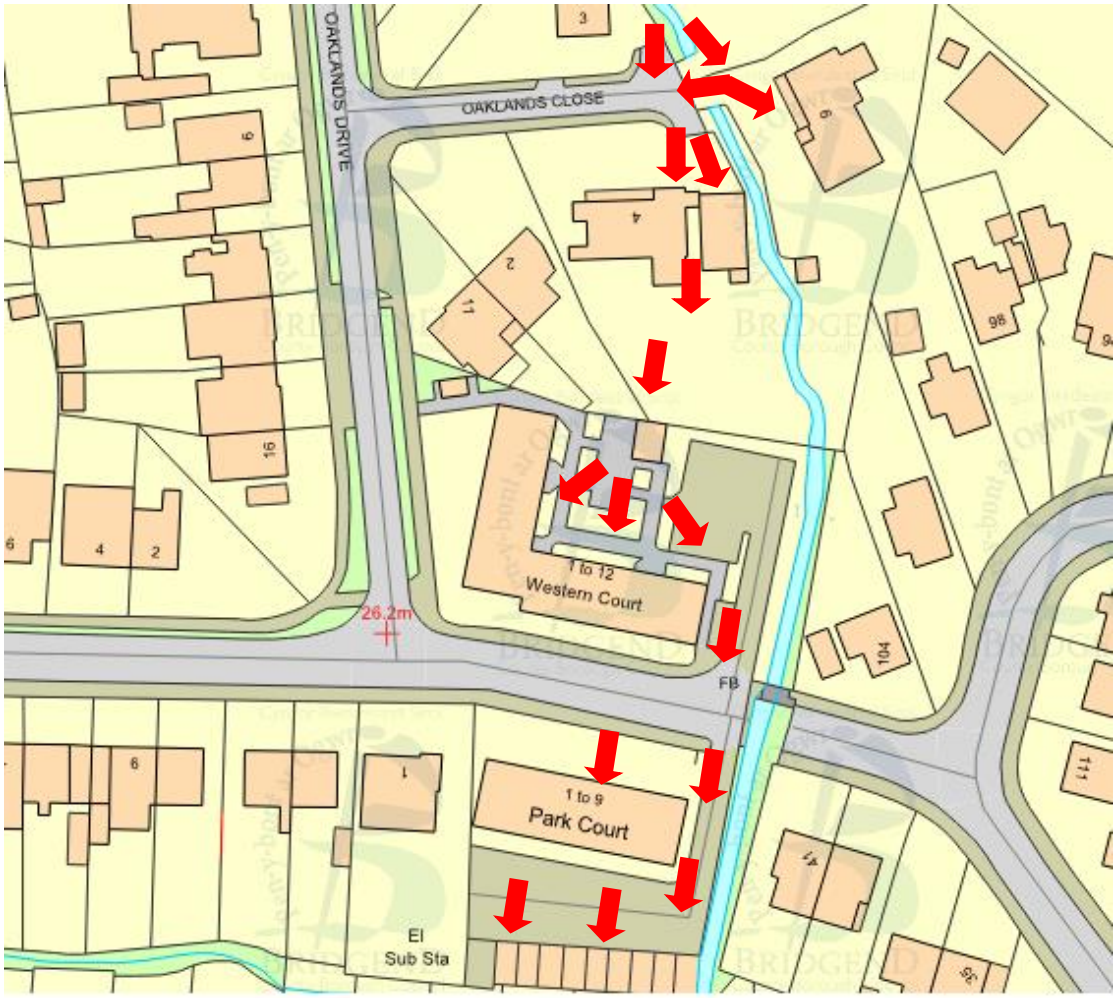


Figure 18 – Oaklands Close, Bryntirion assumed flood exceedance route

Figure 18 outlines the assumed flood exceedance route at Oaklands Close, Western Court flats and Park Court flats during the storm event where flows overtopped the embankments of the ordinary watercourse. The flood exceedance route has been determined following discussions with residents and on-site investigations.

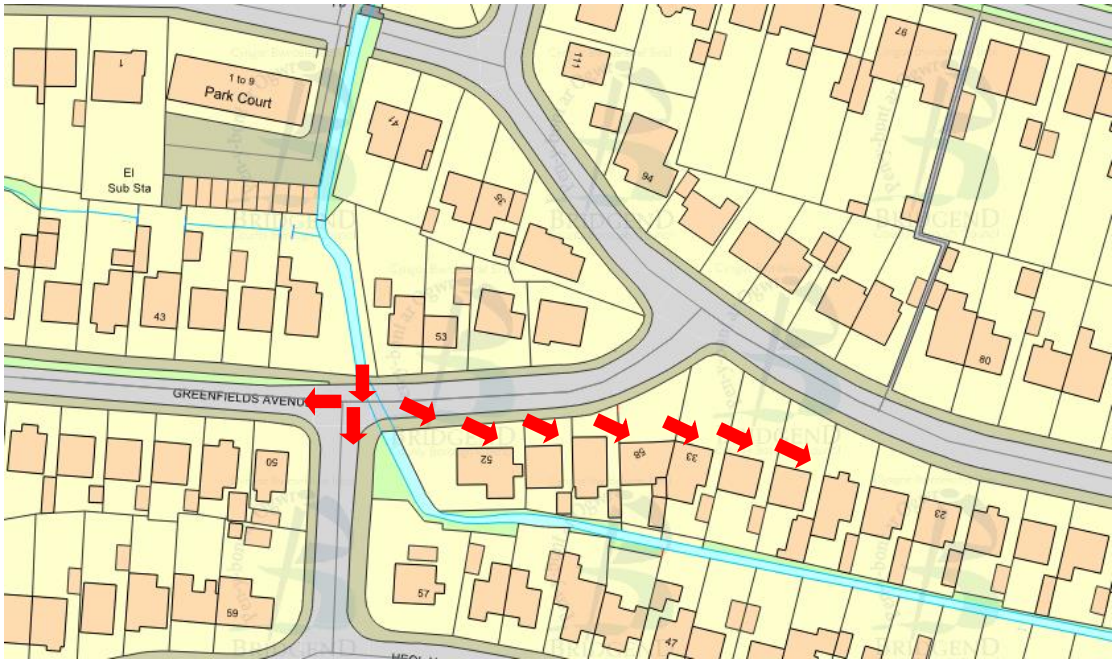


Figure 19 – Greenfields Avenue, Bryntirion assumed flood exceedance route

Figure 19 outlines the assumed flood exceedance route at Greenfields Avenue & Park Court Road during the storm event where flows overtopped the embankments of the ordinary watercourse. The flood exceedance route has been determined following discussions with residents and on-site investigations.

Photographs of internal flooding to properties have been provided by resideints however these have not been included within this Section 19 report due to the requirements of the GDPR.

4.0 Possible Causes

The following section identifies potential causes associated with the storm of the 6th & 7th September 2024.

4.1 Rainfall Intensity during Storm Event

From reviewing the rainfall data from NRW's Brackla rain gauge it has been identified that approx. 50mm of rainfall fell between 7pm and 11pm on the evening of the 6th September 2024. The Brackla rain gauge is located in close proximity to the flood investigation sites and would be considered to provide a good representation of the level of rainfall experienced in the vicinity. Further information in relation to the rainfall encountered during the storm is discussed in Section 2 of this report.

Our initial findings suggest that the primary cause of flooding experienced at all locations is hydraulic overload of the local watercourses due to the rainfall experienced during the storm event.

4.2 Ordinary Watercourses & Culverted Watercourses

Figures 20 & 21 – Caer Castell House, Brackla – Nant Pontysanau Debris

Figure 20 identifies debris within the Nant Pontysanau prior to the storm event. Figure 21 identifies the debris that was subsequently removed following the storm events. Although debris was identified in the watercourse it was below the dry weather flow level, which is dictated by concrete weirs within the watercourse.

Figures 22 & 23 – Caer Castell House, Brackla – Nant Pontysanau Storm Debris

Figure 22 identifies storm debris within the Nant Pontysanau, which was subsequently removed by BCBC following the storm event, as shown in Figure 23.

Figures 24 & 25 Network Rail Culvert downstream

Figures 24 & 25 identify the Network Rail culvert located downstream of the Brackla flood investigation area.

Figure 26 & 27 – Hafan Y Bryn Properties & Culvert Inlet Post Vegetation Clearance

Figure 26 identifies the bungalows that were subjected to flooding on Hafan y Bryn. Figure 27 identifies the location of the inlet to the culverted watercourse located to the west of Hafan Y Bryn. On inspection of the area and the general topography it is noted that there is a gap within the hedge line, which it is believed has been created to allow the flood water to disperse and acts as an exceedence route when the culvert capacity is exceeded.

Figure 28 & 29 – Hafan Y Bryn Unnamed Watercourse

Figures 28 & 29 identifies the unnamed watercourse located south of Hafan Y Bryn.

Figures 30 & 31 – Hafan Y Bryn Inlet Post Vegetation Clearance

Figures 30 & 31 identifies the Hafan y Bryn culvert inlet following vegetation clearance. No debris was identified within the culvert, indicating that hydraulic overload was the primary cause of flooding at this location.

Figure 32 & 33 – Culverted watercourses Upstream of Oaklands Close

Figure 32 & 33 identifies the culvert inlets to two culverted watercourses upstream of Oaklands Close. Both culverts beneath Park Street and Oaklands Close were clear during the post storm inspection indicating that hydraulic overload was the primary cause of flooding at this location.

4.2 Main River

The designated main river the River Ogmore, flows south of the Bryntirion flood investigation area.

The hydrograph in Figure 34 overleaf illustrates a moderate rise in levels of the River Ogmore in response to rainfall, captured at NRW's Bridgend station located at the leisure centre footbridge.

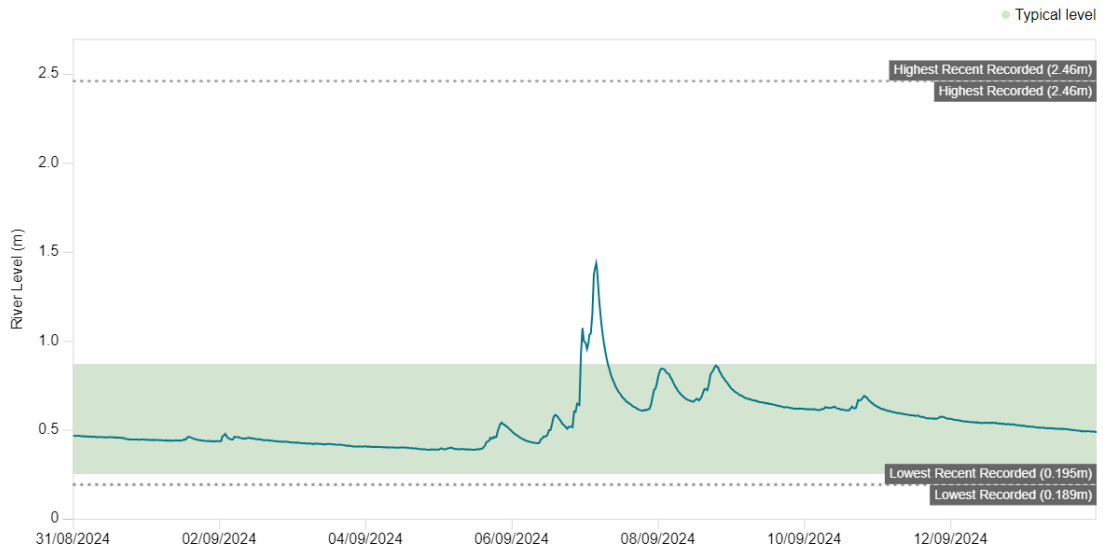


Figure 34 – NRW Flood Map for Planning

The designated main River Ewenny flows south of the Brackla flood investigation area.

The hydrograph in Figure 35 below illustrates a moderate rise in levels of the River Ewenny in response to rainfall, captured at NRW's Keepers Lodge station, located Ewenny, downstream of Old Mill and Felindre Road.

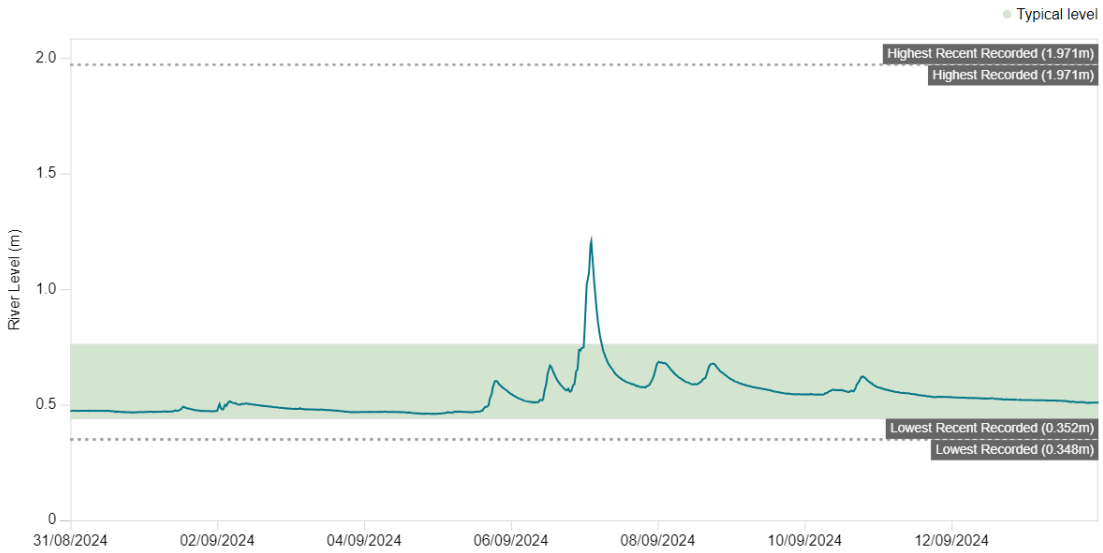


Figure 35 – NRW Flood Map for Planning

There is no evidence from this investigation to suggest that the River Ogmore or River Ewenny significantly contributed to the recorded flooding of properties within the investigation areas during the storm event on the 6th & 7th of September 2024.

4.3 Highway Drainage

Although there was flooding within the highway caused by hydraulic overload of the local watercourses, there is no evidence from this investigation that the highway

drainage networks contributed to the flooding that occurred on the 6th & 7th September 2024 within the investigation areas.

4.4 DCWW sewer

There is no evidence from this investigation that DCWW networks contributed to the flooding that occurred on the 6th & 7th September 2024 within the investigation areas.

4.5 Summary of Possible Causes

The above sections have identified and described the possible causes of flooding within the Brackla and Bryntirion suburbs in Bridgend during the storm event on the 6th & 7th September 2024. A summary of the identified source(s) and possible cause(s) of flooding has been outlined below in Table 6 below.

Ref No.	Location	Asset (Source)	Issue	Asset Owner	Type of Flooding
1	Caer Castell House, Brackla	Nant Pontysanau	Intense rainfall across Bridgend resulted in hydraulic overload of watercourse	BCBC	Fluvial Flooding of Ordinary Watercourse
2	Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion	Unnamed Watercourse Culvert Inlet	Intense rainfall across Bridgend resulted in hydraulic overload of watercourse	V2C	Fluvial Flooding of Ordinary Watercourse
3	Oaklands Close, Bryntirion	Nant Cefn Glas Culvert Inlet	Intense rainfall across Bridgend resulted in hydraulic overload of watercourse	Private	Fluvial Flooding of Ordinary Watercourse
4	Western Court & Park Court flats, Bryntirion	Nant Cefn Glas Culvert Inlet	Intense rainfall across Bridgend resulted in hydraulic overload of watercourse	Private	Fluvial Flooding of Ordinary Watercourse
5	Greenfields Avenue/Park Court Road, Bryntirion	Nant Cefn Glas Culvert Inlet	Intense rainfall across Bridgend resulted in hydraulic overload of watercourse	BCBC	Fluvial Flooding of Ordinary Watercourse

Table 6 – Summary of source(s) and possible cause(s) of flooding in Bryntirion and Brackla on 6th & 7th September 2024

5.0 Risk Management Authority Actions

As the LLFA, BCBC has the responsibility to coordinate the management of flood risk and the interaction of RMAs across Bridgend County Borough.

An overview of the relevant RMAs in Bridgend County Borough in relation to flood type is provided in Table 7 below. For further details of the roles and responsibilities of individual Risk Management Authorities in managing flooding, refer to WG's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, Section 4 'Roles and Responsibilities

Type of Flooding	Relevant Risk Management Authority
Flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater	LLFA (BCBC)
Flooding from Main River, reservoirs and the sea (including coastal erosion).	NRW
Flooding from water and sewage systems	BCBC
Flooding from the highway	Highway Authority
Flooding from the highway (motorways and major trunk roads)	Welsh Government Trunk Road Agency

Table 7 - Risk Management Authority with relevant functions to manage the risk for different flood types

RMAs have direct flood risk management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, as well as the Water Resources Act 1991, Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Highways Act 1980. Through analysis of the flooding that impacted BCBC, the flood risk management functions exercised, or proposed to be exercised, by relevant RMAs was recorded pursuant to Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which states;

"On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

a) Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and,
b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in the response to the flood."

Through the investigation process, the source(s) and possible cause(s) of flooding in Bryntirion and Brackla as a result of the unnamed storm event on 6th & 7th September 2024 has been previously identified and summarised within Table 6. Most of the flooding was due to hydraulic overloading of local watercourses and culverts, where flows exceeded the capacity of systems. The RMAs responsible for managing that flooding have been listed within Table 8 overleaf, along with a series of recommendations presented by the LLFA.

Ref	Location	Asset Source	Asset Owner	Relevant Risk Management Authority	Type of Flooding	Proposed Action & Recommendations	Link to BCBC Flood Risk Management Plan – EU reporting Code	Status/Notes
1	Caer Castell House, Brackla	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Inspect watercourses	M41- Preparedness	Storm debris clearance from the Nant Pontysanau completed in October 2024
2	Caer Castell House, Brackla	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk and apply for FCERM funding	M41- Preparedness	Investigate feasibility of installing a bund around the watercourse in BCBC land WG FCERM funding to be applied for 2025/26 financial year
3	Caer Castell House, Brackla	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Discussions with other asset owners	M41- Preparedness	Meeting held with Network Rail on site.
4	Caer Castell House, Brackla	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	LLFA to liaise with landowner regarding ongoing maintenance	M41- Preparedness	Meeting held with BCBC holding department to discuss ongoing maintenance and inspections in this area
6	Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	V2C	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Inspect watercourses	M41- Preparedness	Completed 11th September 2024.
7	Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	V2C	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Engage with riparian owner to ensure area around culvert entrance is clear and	M41 - Preparedness	Meeting held with Valleys to Coast (V2C).

						free flowing		V2C cleared areas of vegetation around culvert inlet. V2C to undertake further clearance works in downstream watercourse running parallel to Bryntirion Hill
8	Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	V2C	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Improve access culvert entrance	M41- Preparedness	Works completed in September 2024
9	Hafan Y Bryn, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	V2C	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk to this area	M41- Preparedness	BCBC to apply for WG FCERM funding for 2024/25 financial year
10	Oaklands Close, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	Private	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Inspect watercourse	M41- Preparedness	Completed 11th September 2024. Culverts clear during inspection.
11	Oaklands Close, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	Private	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk to this area	M41 - Preparedness	BCBC to apply for WG FCERM funding to Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk in the area
12	Western Court & Park Court flats, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	Private	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Inspect watercourse	M41- Preparedness	Completed 11th September 2024. Culverts clear during inspection.
13	Western Court & Park Court flats, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	Private	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk to this area	M41 - Preparedness	BCBC to apply for WG FCERM funding to Investigate potential options to mitigate

								flood risk in the area
14	Greenfields Avenue/ Park Court Road, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Inspect watercourse	M41- Preparedness	Completed 11th September 2024. Culverts clear during inspection.
15	Greenfields Avenue/ Park Court Road, Bryntirion	Ordinary Watercourse	BCBC	Lead Local Flood Authority	Fluvial	Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk to this area	M41 - Preparedness	BCBC to apply for WG FCERM funding to Investigate potential options to mitigate flood risk in the area

Table 8 – Recommendations provided by LLFA to be considered by the relevant Risk Management Authority identified in response to the source(s) of flooding to the Brackla and Bryntirion Flood Investigation Areas in Bridgend.

5.1 Lead Local Flood Authority

In review of Ref 1 – 15 in Table 8, the LLFA has been determined as a relevant RMA in relation to the flooding which occurred within the Brackla and Bryntirion flood investigation areas in Bridgend on 6th & 7th of September 2024.

The LLFA exercised the following functions in response to the flooding at Brackla and Bryntirion flood investigation areas:

- Officers investigated the initial flooding and have produced this report in line with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
- The LLFA, assisted by the Highway Authority, have undertaken clearance works to the culvert network systems which fall under the responsibility of the Authority (Ref No. 1);
- The LLFA have initiated engagement with riparian landowners to ensure the ordinary watercourse infrastructure is free flowing and unobstructed (Ref No. 3 & 7).

The LLFA propose to exercise the following functions in response to the flooding at Brackla and Bryntirion flood investigation areas:

- The LLFA will continue to engage with riparian landowners to ensure all culverts and watercourses are free flowing and unobstructed;
- The LLFA will be applying for Welsh Government funding to undertake a flood alleviation scheme at Brackla. If funding is secured, the scheme will involve the construction of a bund around the Nant Pontysanau to mitigate flood risk to properties at Caer Castell House, Brackla;
- The LLFA will be applying for Welsh Government funding to undertake a Nant Cefn Glas catchment study to identify potential options to mitigate flood risk to properties in Bryntirion.

5.2 Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales were not identified as a relevant authority in relation to the flooding at Byntirion or Brackla on the 6th & 7th September 2024.

5.3 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

DCWW were not identified as a relevant authority in relation to the flooding at Byntirion or Brackla on the 6th & 7th September 2024.

5.4 Highway Authority

The Highway Authority were not identified as a relevant authority in relation to the flooding at Byntirion or Brackla on the 6th & 7th September 2024.

6.0 Useful Links/Contacts

Flood Re – Flooded Property Insurance Scheme - https://www.floodre.co.uk/

Natural Resources Wales – Check Flood Warnings – https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-flood-warnings/?lang=en

Natural Resources Wales - Long Term Flood Risk - https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode/?lang=en

Bridgend County Borough Council – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy -

https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/nature-climate-and-environment/flooding/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/

Welsh Government - National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management https://www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales

Welsh Water – How to Contact Us – https://contact.dwrcymru.com/en

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING RECOMMISSIONING CARE AT HOME SERVICES**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officer:	**PETE TYSON – GROUP MANAGER, COMMISSIONING**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**This report seeks Cabinet approval to undertake a procurement exercise to establish a Framework Agreement of commissioned regulated care at home providers, with current contractual arrangements with commissioned providers due to end on 31st March 2026.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to undertake a procurement exercise to invite tenders to establish a Framework Agreement of commissioned regulated care at home providers.

2. Background

2.1 In November 2014, Cabinet approved the remodeling homecare implementation plan, which set out the Council's intentions for meeting the increasing demands for internal homecare and external domiciliary care in a sustainable and managed way. This plan recommended complimentary roles for in house and commissioned care and support services – providing a range of specialist and long-term services.

2.2 It was recognised that there was a need to strengthen and develop what was a fragile market and attract new providers to support the service model that was approved. To facilitate this change, officers developed a commissioning plan, which established a framework agreement for the provision of externally commissioned domiciliary care.

2.3 In January 2016, Cabinet approved the award of a framework agreement to 13 providers for the provision of new packages of domiciliary care from April 2016. Building on the success of the first tender exercise which delivered sufficient capacity and high-quality services whilst also ensured compliance with relevant procurement legislation and BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules, two subsequent tender exercises for care at home services have been carried out and approved by Cabinet in 2017 and 2021, with current tendered framework arrangements due to expire on 31st March 2026.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Having safe, flexible and effective care and support at home services are an essential part of the Council's strategy to help and support individuals to maintain their independence.

3.2 Current contractual arrangements with Independent Domiciliary Care (IDC) providers end in March 2026, where services will need to be recommissioned and tendered during 2025/26 to ensure compliance with relevant national legislation and BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules.

3.3 The proposal is to implement a maximum six-year (2 years initially with the option to extend by a further 24 months and an additional 24 months thereafter) Framework Agreement, and to carry out the recommissioning exercise in the same way as when these services have previously been tendered – where existing packages of care will only possibly move over to a new provider at point of review. This is to minimise disruption and unrest for individuals, but also to enable providers to plan and develop their businesses, recruit and retain workforce and develop services for the people of Bridgend.

3.4 BCBC are committed to working with high quality and experienced service providers, and there will be a very strong emphasis on quality as part of the tender process. To enable this, the cost:quality ratio of 20:80 will be strongly weighted in favour of quality – which will be evaluated through the written responses from the providers, including consideration of their regulatory inspection reports from Care Inspectorate Wales, feedback from people who use their services, their compliance with all aspects of employment law as well as presentations and/or interviews that are part of the tender process.

3.5 When the first tender exercise was undertaken, providers were asked to submit their own rates to meet the requirements of the contract – and no ceiling or basement amounts were provided by the Council. This approach could be considered as being a 'race to the bottom', where those who provide the lowest rates are more likely to score highly when considering 20% of evaluation links to costs, and the lower cost is deemed more favorable.

3.6 In response to this, during the last tender exercise undertaken in 2021, Cabinet approved that instead of an uncapped price submission, a maximum and minimum allowable rate should instead be given to providers, which linked to the National Commissioning Board (on behalf of Welsh Government) cost modelling work on what constitutes a fair price of care. It should be noted that real living wage for care workers became Welsh Government policy from April 2022 and this has been reflected in provider uplifts accordingly from that date.

3.7 It is proposed to continue with this pricing methodology with the next tender exercise, which will mitigate the risk of any significant cost pressures for BCBC linked to high rates submitted and will also allow providers sufficient funding to deliver the quality of service required. i.e. funding will allow providers to meet the ethical treatment of the workforce requirements of the new Code of Practice, and also the Welsh Government requirement to pay care workers the Real Living Wage.

3.8 Service providers on the new Framework Agreement will not be guaranteed packages of care – with each package placed following its own individual process which considers both quality and price as part of the evaluation – which is carried out independently by a brokerage team. This gives full flexibility to the Council in terms of the balance between in-house and commissioned services.

3.9 As part of the tender process, it will be stated that levels of hours commissioned might increase as a result of the increased demands and pressures highlighted in recent Population Needs Assessments, but will also state that there is ongoing work at a national and local level linked to 'rebalancing of care', which might also result in a reduction of hours needing to be commissioned during the term of the contract.

3.10 The table below sets out the indicative procurement timescales (to be confirmed), should Cabinet approval be given to go to tender:

	Stage 1 Procurement Activity	**Date**
1	Approval to go to tender	July 2025
2	Place tender notice for the Framework	September 2025
3	Tender returns	November 2025
4	Final tender evaluation	January 2026
5	Approval to award	February 2026
6	Contract start date for Framework	April 2026

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions.

4.2 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening of the proposed tender for Care at Home services has identified that there is no change to service delivery and therefore there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal at this stage.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 A summary of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment is listed below:

Long-term The service model continues to be person-centred and outcome-focused, which is in keeping with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, and help meet the longer-term demands and requirements of services.

Prevention Care at home services are essential preventative services to mitigate the need for more costly residential care placement, where individuals are supported to maintain independence and

live in their own homes for as long as is possible and appropriate to do so.

Integration Care at home service providers will need to work with a wide range of stakeholder groups and organisations (such as health) to ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals in receipt of these services.

Collaboration The service model is predicated on close collaboration between the service provider, social work teams, wider stakeholders and communities, and the individuals themselves.

Involvement Key stakeholders and providers have been involved to help shape and inform the service model that has evolved to date, where there has been no feedback received to suggest any significant changes are needed to the current strength-based and outcome-focused way of working.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 As part of the contractual documentation included in the tender exercise, there will be specific mention of the climate change requirements, as set out in the new Code of Practice for Social Services Commissioning.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 Safeguarding is an essential part of care at home services, where there are specific sections and requirements stated throughout contractual documentation.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 IDC providers are paid an all-inclusive hourly rate for services provided (pro rata for any calls less than one hour), which is a fixed rate paid for days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays, where levels of hours commissioned for individuals will be based on strength-based and outcome-focused care planning.

8.2 The current (2025/26) hourly rates paid to providers are shown below, where rates paid to providers will be based on rates submitted as part of the last tender exercise:

- Minimum - £29.27/hr
- Maximum - £30.90/hr
- Average - £30.46/hr

8.3 The range of rates submitted were part of the tender exercise last undertaken in 2021, where providers are only able to submit costs based on a defined range linked to cost modelling figures published by NCB at that time. It is proposed that the same approach is followed for the next tender exercise, with the minimum and maximum figures above providing the allowable ‘price submission’ capped range for providers.

8.4 Should all providers submit prices at either the existing (2025/26) minimum and maximum hourly rates, the potential financial implications are:

- Minimum (£29.27/hr) – annual cost saving of £525k (4.1% decrease)
- Maximum (£30.90/hr) – annual cost increase of £191k (1.4% increase)

8.5 Any potential cost implications linked with the tender exercise will be built into budget setting processes for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate for 2026/27, which will also be made clear in the Cabinet report seeking approval to enter into contracts with successful bidders, scheduled to be reported in January/February 2026.

8.6 During the term of the contract, tendered rates are uplifted on an annual basis linked to cost pressures analysis, which considers price inflation (Consumer Price Index). Funding is sought for these uplifts from centrally held Council wide budgets. Changes in Real Living Wage (in accordance with the Welsh Government Real Living Wage pledge for care workers in Wales), is covered through funding currently received from Welsh Government as part of the annual Revenue Support Grant received by BCBC.

8.7 The total IDC budget in scope for 2025/26 is £11.253 million, which will form the basis of the total value of the capped tender, where subsequent annual uplifts (linked to cost pressures) will be made in accordance with contract terms, as set out above in paragraph 8.6.

8.8 The estimated total value of the framework agreement over the maximum 6-year term is £66 million (£11 million per annum).

8.9 Further financial analysis will be undertaken in the future to help inform the national and local conversations in respect of Rebalancing Care, part of which will require a detailed understanding of the cost differential between internal homecare services and commissioned IDC provider costs. There will also be analysis in the future based on the demographic pressures being faced (given the age and health status of the population) to understand what the balance between short-term and long-term services, and what levels of such services are needed in the future.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the contents of this report;
- Approves the procurement of a Regulated Care at Home Services Framework Agreement of commissioned domiciliary care providers;
- Delegates authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing to tender the Framework Agreement for the Regulated Care at Home Services Framework Agreement and note that a further report shall be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the procurement of the Framework Agreement for a decision on whether to award the Framework Agreement and seek approval to enter into the Framework Agreement with successful bidders

Background documents:
None

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officers:	**MICHELLE KING, INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER** **MATT JENKINS, REGIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR (CTM REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD)**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**THERE IS NO EFFECT UPON THE POLICY FRAMEWORK OR PROCEDURE RULES**
Executive Summary:	**This report provides an update on Bridgend County Borough Council's ongoing work to integrate health and social care services to create better outcomes for our population. It recommends approval of a new Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA), which will formalise collaboration with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM UHB) and other local authorities – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (other local authority partners) - in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) region.** **The RPA is a key enabler for the Council's statutory duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and supports wellbeing objectives, including improving service accessibility and promoting healthy lifestyles. The report outlines our long-standing commitment to integrated care, dating back to the former Western Bay Partnership, and highlights how this experience is shaping the development of a region-wide Integrated Community Care System (ICCS). The RPA will provide a strengthened legal and operational framework for shared governance, pooled resources, and aligned service delivery, ensuring that integrated care is strengthened in our area and becomes the default model across the region.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The Council has been working with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (other local authority partners) to strengthen joint working arrangements so that our residents that are living with disability and frailty can be supported by better, more integrated health and social care services.

1.2 This report provides an update to Cabinet on that programme of work and recommends approval of a Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) attached as **Appendix 1** which will support this ongoing agenda of service improvement for people across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. The RPA sets out a shared vision for improving outcomes for older people living with frailty. It addresses our statutory duties under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and supports the phased implementation of the Integrated Community Care Service (ICCS) model. By formalising governance, delivery, and accountability arrangements, the RPA will ensure that local services are better coordinated, more responsive, and sustainably resourced to meet the needs of our communities.

2. Background

2.1. Bridgend's journey toward integrated health and social care began over a decade ago under the Western Bay Health and Social Care Partnership. The 2014 Western Bay Community Services Business Case laid the foundation for a new model of intermediate care, designed to support people with frailty and dementia through timely, coordinated interventions. This model emphasised pooled funding, multidisciplinary working, and a shift away from hospital-based care toward community-based solutions.

2.2. One of the key outcomes of this early work was the establishment of the Bridgend Community Resource Team (CRT), which became a cornerstone of integrated care in our area. The CRT aims to support people to live independently at home, reduce hospital admissions and long-term care placements by providing rapid, multidisciplinary support in people's homes. Over time, this evolved into a broader system of care that included shared access points, reablement services, and integrated discharge planning.

2.3. Following Bridgend's transition from the Western Bay region to Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) region, the focus shifted to aligning local successes with regional transformation goals. Bridgend's integrated model has been recognised as a pathfinder for the wider Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) now being implemented across the region. While other areas are aligning existing services, Bridgend is developing new tools such as a demand and capacity framework that will inform the next phase of regional rollout.

2.4. This evolution reflects a commitment to building on local strengths while contributing to a consistent, sustainable model of integrated care across the whole of CTM.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 In March 2025 Cabinet approved a regional Memorandum of Understanding that has guided the detailed work on the RPA. Working regionally with the CTMUHB and other local authority partners to develop an ICCS means that continuity and coordination of care for residents will be enhanced, and we contribute to the scaling of best practice as required in Welsh Government guidelines. The components of the ICCS 'target model' are described in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Cwm Taf Morgannwg ICCS

3.2 The development of a RPA means we can update the existing formal working arrangements with the health board for the CRT. Whilst in this model there is no change to Councils' and CTMUHB's statutory duties, a legal agreement enables us to retain joint posts, strengthen existing pooled budgeting arrangements and improve scrutiny across health and social care. It will increase transparency about the delivery of health and social care services in the community.

3.3 The RPA attached as **Appendix 1** has been co-produced by the Council and its partners, with detailed input by senior managers and legal leads from each organisation. The intention is for the agreement to be approved by each partner in July 2025 prior to going live in its first iteration in the Autumn.

3.4 In including a service schedule for the Bridgend Community Resources Team, the RPA is careful to delineate the responsibilities of the four organisations collectively (i.e. the main body of the agreement describing shared aims and quantifiable improvement objectives) and where service delivery is arranged bilaterally (i.e. at this point only for the Bridgend Community Resource Team as set out in Schedule 1). Box 1 provides representative examples of the positive impact of the CRT.

Box 1: Case Study Summary from the Community Resource Team (CRT)

Case Study 1: Acute Clinical Team (ACT)

A 78-year-old man with multiple chronic conditions—including kidney disease, heart failure, diabetes, and COPD—was referred by his GP due to worsening breathlessness after a recent hospital stay. Despite antibiotics, there was no improvement. ACT assessed him and found no signs of acute infection or heart failure decompensation, but blood tests showed worsening kidney function and hypotension.

Following a brief A&E visit due to collapse, he was diagnosed with a lower respiratory tract infection and returned to ACT care. A consultant-led home review led to IV diuretic therapy, which was later transitioned to oral medication. The patient was at high risk of falling due to fatigue from frequent urination, so ACT's physio and OT arranged an urgent bariatric commode to reduce this risk.

Further assessment during a routine visit revealed unmanaged chronic respiratory issues. Based on his history, the consultant suspected undiagnosed COPD. Given the patient's frailty, spirometry was not pursued, and advanced care planning was discussed with the family. Salbutamol nebulisers were trialled with good effect, and COPD management was initiated in line with national guidance.

All care was delivered in the community by ACT's advanced practitioners with consultant support. The patient and family gave positive feedback, noting improved health and avoidance of another hospital admission.

Case Study 2: Mobile Response and Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment

Mrs A, an older adult with a complex medical history including mild cognitive impairment, stroke, osteoarthritis, and chronic kidney disease, was referred to the ACT via the Falls Pathway following a pattern of frequent falls—approximately three per week. Although there had been no emergency callouts in the six months prior, her risk had escalated.

She lived with her husband and received support from her daughter. While independent with personal care, she needed help with cooking and cleaning. A Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment was completed, including a medical review by an ACT nurse and a pharmacist-led medication review.

Mrs A expressed low mood and frustration due to being housebound and experiencing dizziness during falls, often in the lounge. These insights helped shape a personalised care plan focused on improving safety and wellbeing.

3.5 For the next iteration of the RPA in Spring 2027, the intention is to create complementary schedules for RCT and Merthyr Tydfil once the initial alignment of community teams has been achieved. At that stage the schedules will be scoped more widely to include integrated community 'Network Teams' who support people

with longer-term needs to live as independently as possible at home. Examples of the positive impact of the Bridgend Network Teams are included in Box 2.

Box 2: Case Studies from Bridgend Integrated Community Network Teams

Case Study 1: East Integrated Network – Safeguarding and Hospital Admission Avoidance
Laura, a 73-year-old woman living with her husband, was the subject of a domestic violence incident. She was confined to bed with a suspected broken arm and a non-functional hoist. Emergency services were delayed, but a social worker intervened promptly, contacting the integrated team. Within two hours, Laura was relocated to a place of safety. Occupational Therapists supported her safe transfer, and Day Services arranged transport and staff. This coordinated response avoided a hospital admission and enabled safeguarding teams to begin longer-term planning.

Case Study 2: North Integrated Network – Safeguarding and Frequent Hospital Admissions when
Nancy, aged 92, had a history of frequent hospital admissions, cognitive challenges, and frailty. Concerns were raised about neglect, weight loss, and medication compliance. A safeguarding referral led to a multidisciplinary team response, including OT, physiotherapy, dietetics, and pharmacy. A bed-to-chair programme was introduced, and Nancy began gaining weight. She has not been admitted to hospital in six months, and district nurse input is no longer required. Nancy and her husband now feel supported and stable at home.

3.6 The RPA will evolve on a staged basis through periodic iterations. This will provide scope to develop further integrated delivery mechanisms to drive performance improvement, enhance outcomes and guide investment including through the Regional Integration Fund and other relevant sources.

3.7 Robust governance will be established to see overall delivery of the RPA. The three Councils and the health board remain fully accountable for their respective statutory responsibilities. We will be supported by the Regional Partnership Board at regional level and Joint Partnership Boards (JPBs) in each locality to oversee performance and drive the development of the integrated model. The development and agreement through the RPA to a shared outcomes and performance framework for community care will enhance visibility and scrutiny.

3.8 In summary the RPA offers a structured and accountable framework for delivering integrated health and social care services across the region. It enables partners to align commissioning priorities and reduce duplication - ultimately improving outcomes for individuals and communities. By formalising shared governance and delivery arrangements, the RPA strengthens our collective ability to respond to complex needs, support early intervention, and deliver person-centred care in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1. An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not

necessary to carry out a full EIA on this proposal. Impact assessment will be undertaken on future service changes that may be initiated by this high-level agreement.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The development of an ICCS through a partnership approach fits with our Corporate Wellbeing objectives. Specifically, the RPA supports the Council's commitment to support people to live healthy and happy lives, and a County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable. The development of the ICCS is a way of delivering on our commitment to work even more closely with the NHS so all people receive the right health or care service at the right time.

5.2 It also puts the Ways of Working into practice as follows:

- Long-term – the focus on older people and frailty reflects the projected growth in the increase in the number of people aged over 65 for the next two decades;
- Prevention – this is the focus of the prevention pathway in Figure 1, strengthening the long-term support services that the Council provides;
- Integration – the main purpose of the RPA is to enhance integration;
- Collaboration – this is the basis of multi-disciplinary ways of working which these developments are intended to enhance; and
- Involvement – fundamentally 'what matters' to people, as identified for example through recent RPB 'hackathons' will steer pathway and services development in this new framework.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 This proposal does not have significant climate change and nature implications; however, a benefit of the RPA is the emphasis on delivering care closer to home, which may reduce the need for travel by both service users and the workforce.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 This proposal will have positive implications for Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting. The access to a multi-disciplinary team around the person approach will reduce risk and enhance safeguarding support.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8.2 The intention in aligning and integrating community teams is to provide proactive care to people, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions and overly long hospital stays which increase dependence on social care services. As better information on demand and capacity becomes available through the ICCS program, that will be available to inform future financial decision making in Councils and the health board.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Notes the progress made towards creating an Integrated Community Care System for older people and people living with frailty;
- Agrees the ICCS model (Figure 1) as the basis for integrated service development;
- Approves the Regional Partnership Agreement in Appendix 1;
- Notes the intention to seek similar approval from CTMUHB and the two other local authorities in the region within the same timescale, and in advance of commencement of the Agreement in the Autumn of 2025;
- delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Social Services and Well-being, after consultation with the monitoring officer and Section 151 officer, to approve the final terms of the Regional Partnership Agreement, including any amendments to the terms approved here as may be necessary, and to enter into the Regional Partnership Agreement and any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to Regional Partnership Agreement.

Background documents

None

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DATED_____

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

and

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

and

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

and

CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

---

for

THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH FRAILTY AND THEIR CARERS IN THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG REGION

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THIS AGREEMENT is made the

BETWEEN

(1) BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL of Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB, ("Bridgend"),
(2) MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL of Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN ("Merthyr Tydfil"),
(3) RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL of 2 Llys Cadwyn, Taff Street, Pontypridd, CF374TH ("RCT") (together "the Councils") and
(4) CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD of Ynysmeurig House Navigation Park Abercynon CF45 4SN (the "UHB").

(collectively referred to as "the Partners").

WHEREAS:

A This Agreement covers arrangements to plan and arrange provision for adult and older people's services and is made pursuant to the powers conferred to the parties by Section 33 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 (the '2006 Act') and Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the "SSWBA") (together hereinafter referred to as the 'Acts') and the Regulations.

B This Agreement provides for the establishment and management of integrated arrangements and, where specified allocated or Pooled Funding arrangements between the UHB and the Councils where one Partner will from time to time be the Host Partner for a Service.

C For the purpose of the implementation of the Partnership Arrangements under this Agreement:

1) The UHB has agreed that the Councils may, in conjunction with exercising their Local Authority Functions, exercise the UHB Functions in relation to the Services and;

2) The Councils have agreed that the UHB may, in conjunction with exercising its Local Health Board Functions, exercise the Councils' Local Authority Functions in relation to the Services.

D Where the UHB and the Councils arrange Services pursuant to this Agreement they shall be set out according to the Schedules and the terms herein.

E The Partners shall carry out consultation on the proposals for any Service with those persons, user groups, staff and statutory and non-statutory providers, who appear to them to be affected by the arrangement.

F The Partners have agreed to enter into this Agreement to fulfil the requirements of the Acts, the Regulations and Guidance and to record their respective rights and obligations under the Partnership Arrangements and the terms on which the Partnership Arrangements will be exercised and the Service will be delivered.

G The Partners wish to improve the effectiveness of the Services and support delivered by them through the Partnership Arrangement.

H It is intended that this Agreement be varied and supplemented as necessary, through the inclusion of additional Schedules as the Partnership Arrangements develop over time.

1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 It is agreed that in this Agreement, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

"Acts"	Means the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBWA).
"2000 Regulations"	Means the Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2000 S.I. No. 2993 (W 193) as amended, varied or replaced from time to time.
"Agreement"	Means this Regional Partnership Agreement and any variation of it from time to time agreed between the Partners.
"Allocated Funds"	Means the joint fund or joint funds of monies allocated by the Partners from time to time being shared contributions/budgets from the Partners for the purpose of securing the Services in the Localities pursuant to this Agreement.
"Allocated Funds Manager"	Means the person determined from time to time under Clause 7.7 and who has been identified in the particular Schedules for a Service included in this Agreement.
"Authorised Officers"	Means the persons notified in writing from time to time by each of the Partners to the other from time to time as authorised to act on behalf of that Partner in that capacity (which person shall until further notice be for the Council its Head of Paid Service and for the UHB its Chief Executive).
"Budget"	Means the budget for a Service as set out in or ascertained in accordance with the relevant Schedule.
"Commencement Date"	Means 1 October 2025.
"Data Protection Legislation"	Shall include but not limited to: "Data Protection Legislation" all applicable data protection and privacy legislation in force from time to time in the UK including the UK GDPR; the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) (and regulations made thereunder) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2426) as amended and the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or other relevant regulatory authority and applicable to a party.
"Directions"	Means such statutory directions in respect of Services as the Partners must follow.
"Eligibility Criteria Threshold"	Means the four criteria as derived from the Welsh Government's Guidance on "Fair Access to Care" as set out in "Creating a Unified and Fair System for Assessing and Managing Care", April 2002 and these being critical, substantial, moderate and low.

“Financial Year”	Means the financial year from 1st April in any year to 31st March in the following calendar year.
“Functions”	Means the Health Board Functions and the Local Authority Functions which may be carried out (in whole or part) by a Partner for any Service approved by the Partners and which are reproduced in Schedules to this Agreement.
“Guidance”	Means the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government;
“Host Partner”	Means the Partner responsible for any Allocated Funds within a Service included in this Agreement.
“Integrated Leadership Board”	The partnership board that reports into the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership, responsible for ensuring completion actions agreed at the Regional Partnership.
“Joint Partnership Board”	A group of Health Board, Local Authority and Third Sector executive officers that provides oversight of integrated services in each County area.
“Law”	Means: (a) any Act of Parliament, Act or Measure of the Welsh Ministers or any other statute, proclamation, order, regulation, legislation (whether primary or subordinate) or other law which applies to the performance of this Agreement or to the provision of the Services; (b) any applicable judgment of a relevant court of law which is a binding precedent, in each case in force from time to time in Wales.
“Locality”	An area co-terminus with County Borough Council boundaries.
“Local Authority Functions”	Means those functions set out in either regulation 6 of the National Health Service Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2000 or Schedule 1 of the SSWBA Regulations which may be carried out (in whole or part) by the Partners for any Services and which are reproduced in the applicable Schedule for ease of reference.
“Local Health Board Functions”	Means those functions set out in regulation 5 of the National Health Service Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2000 which may be carried out (in whole or part) by the Partners for any Services and which are reproduced in the applicable Schedule for ease of reference.
“Operational Management Board”	A board of local authority and health board executives which report into a Joint Partnership Board, responsible for driving the operational delivery of integrated Services in the relevant locality.
“Partner(s)”	Means the Councils and the UHB, and the term “Partner” shall mean any of them;
“Partnership Agreements”	means the arrangements as set out in this Agreement concerning the planning, or arranging of Services as detailed in the Schedules and in accordance with the Acts, Regulations and Guidance and any Service;

"Pooled Fund"	Means a fund established and maintained by a local authority or a Local Health Board, out of which the payments may be made towards the expenditure incurred for the purpose of, or in connection with, partnership arrangements.
"Regional Partnership Board"	Means a statutory board set up under Part 9 of the SSWBWA in each local health board area to bring together partnership bodies and other stakeholders to plan and deliver integrated health and social care, promoting better well-being.
"Regulations"	Means the 2000 Regulations and the SSWBA Regulations;
"SSWBWA Regulations"	means the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 S.I. No. 1989 (W.299) as amended, varied or replaced from time to time;
"Revised Annual Plan"	Means an annual statement of agreed intentions referred to in Clause 32.2 and individual Schedules;
"Schedule(s)"	Means a schedule attached to this Agreement;
"Service(s)"	Means the Services which are to be made available to Service Users as described in the Schedules and whose costs are to be met from the Pooled or Allocated Fund or in respect of which the Partners have agreed to make expenditure;
"Service Users"	Means the people who receive the Services to be arranged by the Partners;
"Term"	Means the period from the Commencement Date until termination in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

1.2 Save to the extent that the context or the express provisions of this Agreement otherwise require:

1.2.1 Obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by more than a single person shall be made and undertaken jointly and severally;

1.2.2 Words importing any gender include any other gender and words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular;

1.2.3 References to statutory provisions shall be construed as references to those provisions as respectively amended or re-enacted (whether before or after the Commencement Date) from time to time;

1.2.4 Headings and the Index are inserted for convenience only and shall be ignored in interpreting or in the construction of this Agreement;

1.2.5 References in this Agreement to any Clause or Sub-Clause Paragraph or Schedule without further designation shall be construed as a reference to the Clause or Sub-Clause of or Schedule to this Agreement so numbered;

1.2.6 Any obligation on any of the Partners shall be a direct obligation or an obligation to procure as the context requires;

1.2.7 Any reference to "indemnity" or "indemnify" or other similar expressions shall mean that a Partner indemnifies, shall indemnify and keep indemnified and hold harmless the other Partners;

1.2.8 Any reference to a person shall be deemed to include any permitted transferee or assignee of such person and any successor to that person or any person which has taken over the functions or responsibilities of that person but without derogation from any liability of any original Partner to this Agreement; and

1.2.9 This Agreement and its Schedules should be read as a whole, but in the event of any inconsistency the Schedules shall have precedence.

2. TERM

2.1 This Agreement shall commence on the Commencement Date and shall be ongoing, subject to annual reviews and earlier termination as provided below.

2.2 The Agreement may be terminated in accordance with the provisions of Clause 11.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Effective health and social care and support for older people, people living with frailty and their carers requires coordination of care and integration of Services shaped around the needs of those people. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act requires local authorities to exercise their social services functions with a view to ensuring the integration of care and support provision and health-related provision where they consider that this would:

3.1.2 Promote the wellbeing of children within their area, adults within their area who have needs for care and support and carers within their area with need for support

3.1.2 Contribute to the prevention or delay of the development by children or adults within their area of needs for care and support or the development by carers within their area of needs for support, or

3.1.3 Improve the quality of care and support for children and adults, and of support for carers, provided in their area (including the outcomes that are achieved from such provision)

3.2 The Partners have committed to progress the integration of Services across the population groups for which they have responsibility for providing Care and Support. As part of this, they have committed to the development of an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS), which will be delivered by inter-agency, multi-disciplinary teams operating in Localities across the region.

3.3 In entering into this Agreement, Partners share the following overarching aims and objectives **in relation to the ICCS**:

3.3.1 Maintaining the independence of our population and delivering care in the most effective way.

3.3.2 To facilitate a staged approach to the integration of Services through:

- Creating a regional model of integrated community pathways, where each Locality works to implement the regional optimal model.
- Integrated commissioning arrangements facilitating a joint approach to the planning, procurement, monitoring and review and ongoing improvement of Services.
- Integration over time, of management and other posts within an integrated team structure.
- Alignment of respective partners' budgets through allocated funds, with scope over time for full risk-sharing through establishment of Pooled Funds.

3.3.3 Move towards a joint commissioning approach for when we draw on the same providers and/or there a dependency in one partner on another partner achieving a sufficiency of provision. This will be facilitated through a greater understanding of capacity in and demand for our community services.

3.3.4 To develop continuous service improvement which will includes joint risk management and workforce learning and development.

3.4 The anticipated impact of this Agreement is improved outcomes for Service Users and their carers, and the wider population through effective urgent response and prevention support.

3.5 Agreed outcomes and performance measures will be used to measure impact of the overall Regional Partnership Agreement. An initial suite of measures has been identified, and these are included in **Appendix 1**. These will be reviewed and refined over time and amended with the agreement of Partners via the Integrated Leadership Board. Measures in Appendix 1 are designed mainly to assess the impact of the Agreement overall. Performance measures for individual Services are set out in the Schedules to this Agreement.

3.6 Independent evaluation on the impact of this Agreement and the extent to which it has facilitated integrated working across the partners will be undertaken at intervals set by the Integrated Leadership Board.

3.7 Targets may be set for any Service and agreed by the Partners according to the governance route set out in the Schedule for that Service. These will be set out in the Schedule and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.8 This iteration of this Agreement sets out arrangements for the delivery of the ICCS. **Provision is available for future expansion of the Agreement to include additional Services delivered for other population groups, as required and agreed by Partners. In such an event, the substantive provisions within the Agreement will apply, although these will be subject to review and any adjustments made to ensure they reflect specific arrangements for those additional Services.**

4. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

4.1 The Budget for each Financial Year together with the mechanism for calculating subsequent Budgets and Budget contributions to an Allocated or Pooled fund, including how increases to contributions should be agreed, is set out in relevant Schedules.

4.2 No provision of this Agreement shall preclude the Partners by mutual agreement making additional contributions of non-recurring monies to the Allocated or Pooled Funds for a Service from time to time. There will be no expectation that other Partners will match any increase, unless mutually agreed. Any such additional contributions of non-recurring monies shall be explicitly recorded in minutes of the overseeing board and recorded in the budget statement for a Service as a separate item.

5. NHS FUNCTIONS AND COUNCIL HEALTH RELATED FUNCTIONS

5.1 The Local Health Board Functions and the Local Authority Functions which may be carried out (in whole or part) by a Partner from time to time according to any Services are set out in each Schedule.

6. THE SERVICES

6.1 The Partners subscribe to the ICCS, which is based on two care pathways, each inextricably linked but with a clear focus, ring-fenced resources and defined objectives. These are:

6.1.1 **Urgent Community Response Pathway:** Urgent, unscheduled, intensive community care delivered by multi-disciplinary teams on a time-limited basis and providing enhanced levels of support at times of deterioration, changeability, when an intensive period of recovery or rehabilitation is needed, or during transitions of care. This can be provided at home or in care settings.

6.1.2 **Prevention Pathway:** Establishing pro-active care and enabling older people and people living with frailty to maintain independence and spend more healthy days at home. Multi-disciplinary teams will provide preventative care and facilitate wider collaboration across sectors to meet the needs of individuals and communities.

6.2 The model also includes the intention to further develop an **integrated central navigation hub** providing a comprehensive triage service, receiving referrals from health and care professionals and Local Authority Single Points of Access and facilitating access to appropriate services within the Urgent Community Response pathway.

Figure 1: The Cwm Taf Morgannwg ICCS for older people and people living with frailty

6.3 The scope of this Agreement is the provision and management of Services within the pathways described above. These Pathways are at different stages of development, therefore whilst Figure 1 describes the overall model, the Services directed by this Agreement are only those set out in Schedules.

6.4 Partners will develop and implement these Services, with wider partners in the Regional Partnership and through a co-productive approach with our staff, Trades Unions, Llais and our population. The intention is to undertake an annual update of Schedules to reflect such developments.

6.5 The Services shall be planned and delivered by the members of the regional Integrated Leadership Board, in liaison with local Joint Partnership Boards in each Locality and in accordance with the provisions of the included Services and the relevant Schedules.

6.6 The Partners will ensure that the national eligibility criteria as set out in the SSWBWA are fully implemented and that the Eligibility Criteria Thresholds as agreed by the relevant Council are consistently applied.

6.7 The Eligibility Criteria Threshold for the provision of specific Services will operate according to the relevant Schedule.

7. ARRANGEMENT OF SERVICES

7.1 For each Service referred to in a Schedule to this Agreement, Partners may choose to create an Allocated Fund or a Pooled Fund. This will be determined through agreement in Partners' own organisational governance processes and put into practice through creating and agreeing through the Integrated Leadership Board a Schedule that specifies this and updating this Agreement. Each Partner will identify budgets within its organisation, which together will form such Funds.

7.2 For any Service one of the Councils or the UHB shall be the Host Partner. Governance arrangements will be established in accordance with the Schedules to carry out specified functions.

7.3 An Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager shall be responsible for the management of the Allocated/ Pooled Funds for a Service. The Allocated Funds Manager may have accountability across the region or within a Locality, as agreed by the Partners and set out in the relevant Schedule.

7.4 An Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager shall be approved by the Partners who are not the Host Partner for a Service (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) and affirmed in the role via agreed governance at the outset of a Service.

7.5 The internal regulations of the Host Partner shall apply to the management of the Allocated/ Pooled Funds under this Agreement, insofar as the funding is held and defrayed by the Host Partner.

7.6 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall be responsible for authorising payments from the Allocated/ Pooled Funds in accordance with the Service description and the aims and objectives, as set out in Schedules to this Agreement provided that the Partners shall be responsible for payments under regular day to day provision of the Service supplied directly through their own employees and/or contractors.

7.7 The Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager shall be responsible for managing the Allocated / Pooled Funds and forecasting and reporting to the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate) and its operational upon the targets and information in accordance with and any further targets or performance measures that may be set by the Joint Partnership Board from time to time.

7.8 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall report to the Authorised Officers. The Council's Authorised Officer shall in turn ensure reporting on the same to the officer of the Council responsible for the administration of their financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The UHBs Authorised Officer/ Partnership Lead will do similarly.

7.9 Each Partner shall comply with all Law and Guidance relating to the provision of the Services or any part thereof.

8. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND RISK SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 The Allocated / Pooled Funds are to be used solely to achieve the aims and objectives of a Service set out in the relevant Schedule and according to the arrangements for spend and performance set out within the Schedule.

8.2 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager for Services within this Agreement shall submit information monthly and report every three months in summary form via agreed governance, on spend and the performance information specified within the relevant Schedule. Reports will be prepared at Locality or regional level, as specified within the relevant Schedule. The Partners agree to provide all necessary information to the Pooled / Allocated Funds Manager in time for the reporting requirements to be met.

8.3 The Partners shall ensure:

8.3.1 The Allocated/ Pooled Funds are used efficiently to deliver agreed outcomes, as defined in agreed outcomes and performance frameworks.

8.3.2 The expenditure and income within the Allocated / Pooled Funds remain within budget, and that any exceptions to this are reported to the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate) in a timely manner.

8.3.3 A high level of probity in financial management arrangements.

8.3.4 Resources allocated to Allocated Funds are adequately protected.

8.4 The Partners shall take mitigating action as appropriate to ensure expenditure remains within the limit of an Allocated / Pooled Fund and no Partner shall act unreasonably to expose the other to undue financial risk.

8.5 The monthly reports of the Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager to be submitted to the Joint Partnership Board shall include monthly financial performance reports detailing performance against agreed funding. The report will include a variance analysis for the period and expected forecast outturn and where required, an explanatory note setting out actions being taken to tackle areas where there is a projected underspend or overspend against agreed budgets. Annual statements of spending and performance against the Allocated /Pooled Funds will also be provided in line with any statutory timescales required by either the UHB or the Council.

8.6 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall maintain and provide in addition to information provided under Clause 8.2 above when requested by either of the members of the Joint Partnership Board at the expense of that Partner such information as shall be appropriate to describe the cost of arranged Services for so long as any part thereof is being provided to Service Users notwithstanding any notice of termination in accordance with Clause 11.

8.7 The governance arrangements shall be as set out in the Schedule for a Service.

8.8 Approval for all other reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the Allocated / Pooled Funds outside of the budget in-year must be approved in writing in advance of spend and will require the agreement of the Partners before being accepted as an allowable charge to the particular Allocated / Pooled Fund for a Service.

9. REVIEW

9.1 The Partners, through the Integrated Leadership Board shall review the operation of this Regional Partnership Agreement and Services delivered though it annually by 1st July of every year.

9.2 Reviews of this Agreement shall be conducted in good faith and in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in Clause 32.

9.3 The Partners shall review the operation of this Agreement on the coming into force (or anticipation of the coming into force) of any legislation or guidance affecting the terms of this Agreement so as to ensure that the terms of this Agreement comply with such legislation or guidance.

10. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

10.1 In respect of Allocated / Pooled funding arrangements set out in Schedules to this Agreement, the Partners will prepare planning assumptions of inflation allowances for pay and non-pay expenditure and income together with proposed variations to the expenditure budget in respect of for example:

10.1.1 Growth and demographic changes;
10.1.2 Service enhancements and reductions;
10.1.3 Required efficiency/quality improvements;
10.1.4 Cost pressures/increases in demand; and expected changes in Service delivery costs;
10.1.5 National initiatives.

10.2 These will be considered in the context of the overall budget of the Councils and the UHB as applicable. A demand and capacity model for ICCS, which is currently being developed, will support such considerations.

10.3 The budget for a Service and which is to be agreed by the Partners will take into account effects on other budgets and the financial resources of the Partners.

10.4 Where the Partners do not agree an annual Budget by the time of the commencement of a new Financial Year they shall remain liable to contribute the same budget as was identified as their contribution in the previous

Financial Year (together with any inflation on salaries including increments and pay settlements) until such time as an annual review in accordance Clause 9 or termination in accordance with Clause 11 takes effect.

10.5 As part of the annual Budget setting process, the Partners shall seek appropriate advice in respect of the factors outlined in Clauses 10.1 and 10.3 above.

11. TERMINATION

11.1 If the UHB or any of the Councils fail to meet any of their respective obligations under this Agreement, any other Partner may by written notice request the Partner in default to take such reasonable action to rectify such failure within 60 days of the date of the notice.

11.2 Should the Partner in default fail to rectify such failure within such time-scale, the other Partner may give a minimum of three months written notice to terminate the Agreement.

11.3 Any Partner shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement immediately by notice to the other Partners, if any other Partner, its employees or agents either offer, give or agree to give to anyone any inducement or reward or confers any other benefit in respect of this or any other Agreement (even if that Partner is unaware of any such action) or otherwise commits an offence under the Bribery Act 2010 or Section 117(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11.4 Any Partner is entitled to terminate this Agreement forthwith by written notice to the other Partners if an event of force majeure pursuant to Clause 28 persists for more than 3 months.

11.5 Any Partner is entitled to terminate this Agreement by giving not less than twelve months written notice to the other Partners with such notice to end at the end of a Financial Year.

11.6 The Partners may mutually agree that this Agreement is terminated on an agreed date.

11.7 Any termination of this Agreement under this Clause shall be without prejudice to any continuing obligations of the Partners under Clause 12.

11.8 Any addition or removal of a Service provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be dealt with in accordance with Clause 32.

11.9 Termination by one Partner would require development of a new Agreement between other Partners wishing for a continuation of the integrated working.

12. EFFECTS OF TERMINATION

12.1 Notwithstanding any notice of termination in accordance with Clause 11:

12.1.1 The Partners shall continue to be liable to arrange the Service within a Schedule in accordance with this Agreement until the actual date of termination;

12.1.2 The Partners shall remain liable to operate the Allocated/ Pooled Fund for a Service in accordance with this Agreement so far as is necessary to ensure fulfilment of the obligations in Sub-Clause 12.1.1;

12.1.3 For the avoidance of doubt the Partners shall remain liable to contribute that proportion of the cost of a Service which comprises its contribution until the termination takes effect;

12.1.4 In the event the Partners have jointly agreed to procure a contract with a provider for the provision of any part of the Services and one Partner has agreed to make a contribution to the other in respect of the costs of that contract the contributing Partner shall continue to pay such contribution while that contract subsists; and

12.1.5 The Partners shall cooperate together to ensure that any Service User who has started to receive a Service under this Agreement continues to receive an appropriate Service whilst the Partners make arrangements to revert to separate service provision.

12.2 Assets purchased from the Allocated / Pooled Funds will be disposed of by the Partners for the purposes of meeting any of the costs of winding up the Service or where this is not practicable such goods will be shared proportionately between the Partners in the percentage of their contributions to the Allocated Funds.

12.4 In the event that this Agreement is terminated the Partners agree to co-operate to ensure an orderly wind up of their joint activities as set out in this Agreement so as to minimise disruption to all Service Users carers and staff and comply with individual rights as set out in their contract of employment.

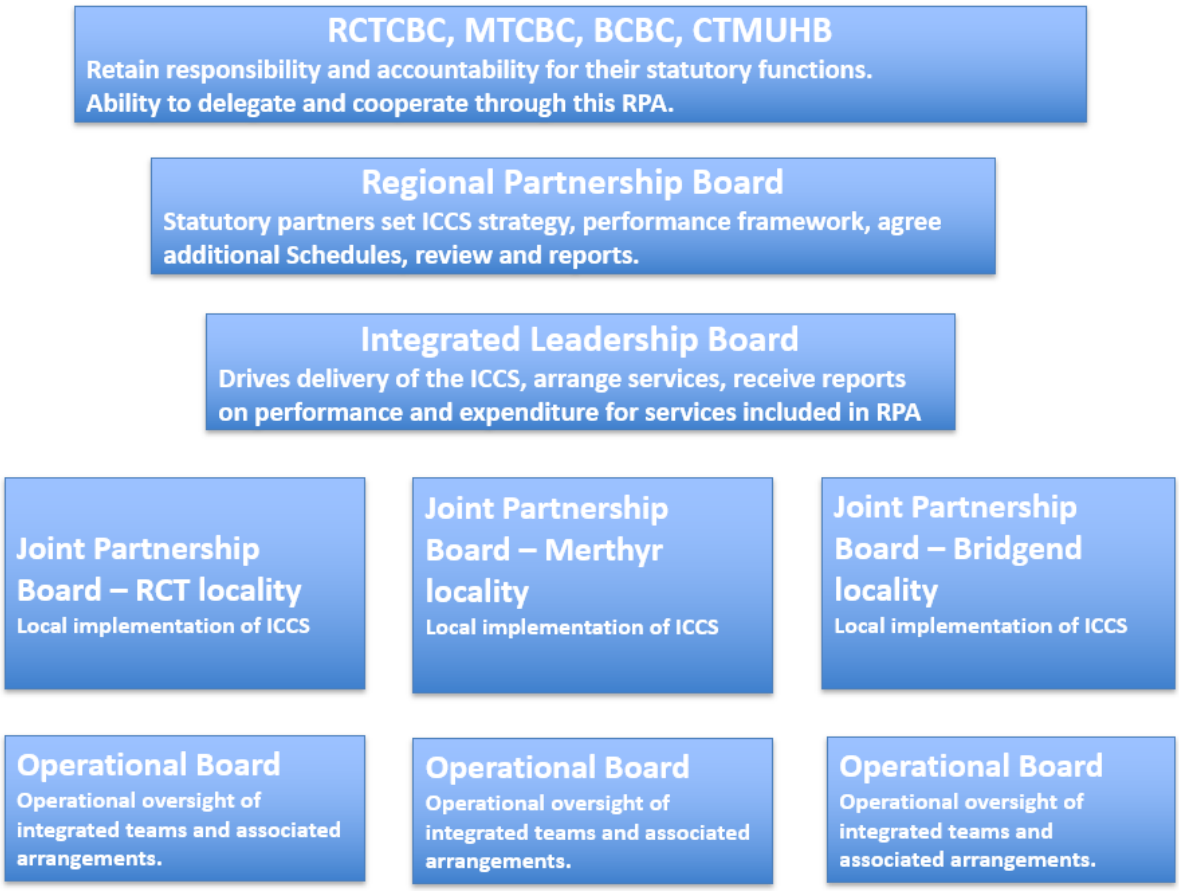
12.5 The operation of this Clause 12 together with Clauses 14 to 19 shall survive the termination or expiry of this Agreement.

13. SCRUTINY

13.1 Collective scrutiny of this Agreement and the Services within it will be undertaken by the Integrated Leadership Board. Arrangements for the Integrated Leadership Board, as a sub-group of the Regional Partnership, are set out in its Terms of Reference which are agreed by the Regional Partnership.

13.2 Scrutiny of Services within Localities as specified in the Schedules, will be provided by Statutory Organisations. At regional level, as set out in figure 2 below, this will be supported by the Regional Partnership Board and Integrated Leadership Board, and within Localities by the relevant Joint Partnership Board and any operational boards as appropriate. Details of local arrangements are provided within the relevant Schedules.

Figure 2: Governance chart



13.3 The Partners will make senior officers available to attend each other's committees and boards with responsibility for the development of policy and the scrutiny of decisions taken in relation to the Services.

14. EXTERNAL INSPECTION AND MONITORING

14.1 The Partners shall:

14.1.1 Comply with any statutory inspection requirements in relation to Services and will liaise as required with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) and/or other relevant regulatory bodies.

14.1.2 Provide appropriate access and information to any external body empowered by statute to inspect or monitor the Partners' discharge of the Services.

14.1.3 Work together to ensure that recommendations made to the Partners pursuant to its delivery agreements with the Welsh Government or any other administrative procedure which replaces it are implemented.

15. INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

15.1 The Partners acknowledge and agree that, at all times during the term of this Agreement:

15.1.1 The UHB will remain a member of the Welsh Risk Pooling Scheme and applies NHS indemnity to its activities which are covered by this agreement; and

15.1.2 The UHB will remain a member of the Welsh Risk Pooling Scheme and applies NHS Indemnity to its activities which are covered by this agreement.

15.2 The Councils undertake that during the term of this Agreement and for a period of 12 years thereafter, they shall either self-insure or maintain in force, with a reputable insurance company including but not limited to employers liability, public liability and other liabilities to third parties in an amount not less than ten million pounds (£10,000,000) per claim arising from a single event or series of related events in a single calendar year.

15.3 Each Partner shall notify the others if any policy is (or will be) cancelled or its terms are (or will be) subject to any material change.

15.4 A Partner shall upon request from the other Partner from time to time:

15.4.1 Provide evidence that the insurance arrangements required by clause 15.1 and 15.12 are fully paid up and in force;

15.4.2 Allow the requesting Partner to inspect its insurance policies; and

15.4.3 Provide the requesting Partner with copies of the full policy document.

15.5 Nothing in this Agreement shall exclude or restrict the liability of a Partner:

15.5.1 For any damage to property real or personal including (but not limited to) any infringement of third party patents copyrights and registered designs;

15.5.2 For any personal injury including injury resulting in death;

15.5.3 For any fraudulent or dishonest act of any of its officers, employees or contractors;

15.5.4 For any breach of the obligations under Clause 17 or any related statutory provision or arising out of or in connection with a Service.

15.6 In relation to any other type of claim not excluded by the operation of Clause 15.5, each Partner (“the Indemnifying Partner”) shall indemnify the other Partners, their officers, employees and agents against any damage, cost

liability, loss, claim or proceedings whatsoever arising in respect of the Indemnifying Partner's acts or omissions. Where the Indemnifying Partner has only contributed partially to the cause of any damage, cost, liability, loss, claim or proceedings, it shall only be liable to indemnify the other Partner for such proportion of the total costs of such damage, cost, liability, loss, claim or proceedings as its contribution to the cause bears to the total damage, cost, liability, claim or proceedings. Where the Partners are unable to agree any such apportionment, the Disputes Procedure in Clause 19 shall apply.

15.7 The indemnity under Clause 15.6 shall not apply to any such claim or proceeding:

15.7.1 unless, as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of notice of such claim or proceeding, the Partner in receipt of a claim shall have notified the other Partner in writing of it, and shall, upon any of the latter's request and at the latter's cost, have permitted the former to have full care and control of the claim or proceeding, using legal representation approved by the latter Partner, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld; or

15.7.2 if the Partner in receipt of the claim or proceeding, its employees or agents shall have made any admission in respect of such claim or proceeding or taken any action related to such claim or proceeding prejudicial to the defence of it without the written consent of the other Partner (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed), provided that this condition shall not be treated as breached by any statement properly made by the Partner in receipt of the claim, its employees or agents in connection with the operation of its internal complaints procedures, accident reporting procedures or disciplinary procedures or where such statement is required by law.

15.8 Each Partner shall keep the other Partner and their legal advisers fully informed of the progress of any such claim or proceeding, will consult fully with the other Partner on the nature of any defence to be advanced and will not settle any such claim or proceeding without the written approval of the other Partner affected (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld).

15.9 Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause 15.7, the Partners will use their reasonable endeavours to inform each other promptly of any circumstances reasonably thought likely to give rise to any such claim or proceedings of which they are directly aware and shall keep each other reasonably informed of developments in relation to any such claim or proceeding even where they decide not to make a claim under this indemnity.

15.10 The Partners shall each give to the other such help as may reasonably be required for the efficient conduct and prompt handling of any claim or proceeding.

1511 The Partners shall ensure that they maintain policies of insurance (or in the case of the UHB, equivalent arrangements through the scheme operated by Welsh Risk Pool) to cover the matters referred to in Clauses 15.5 and 15.6 including but not limited to employers liability, public liability and other liabilities to third parties.

15.12 The Partners will maintain the insurances set out in Clause 15.1 and 15.11 for a period of 12 years following any termination or expiry of the Agreement.

16. VARIATION

16.1 No variation to this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and executed by the Partners using the same formalities as this Agreement.

17. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

17.1 The Partners shall comply and have adequate measures in place to ensure its compliance at all times with the provisions and obligations of the Data Protection Legislation. This shall include but is not limited to:

17.1.1 Partners shall not use Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data (as defined in the Data Protection Legislation) or any part thereof for any purposes whatsoever other than for the purpose of performing the Services;

17.1.2 Partners shall keep and dispose of all Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data in a safe and secure manner; and

17.1.3 Partners shall retain all Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data for only as long as is necessary for performing the Services.

17.2 Partners shall immediately inform each other in the event of any breaches or suspected breaches of the provisions of the Data Protection Legislation in relation to information obtained in the course of performing the Services.

17.3 Each Partner shall:

17.3.1 treat as confidential and provide appropriate safeguards for all or any information which belongs to and has been supplied by and designated as confidential by the other Partners howsoever or in whatsoever manner such information is conveyed or stored, including information which relates to the business, affairs, assets, goods or services or operations of the other Partners (“Confidential Information”); and

17.3.2 not disclose any Confidential Information to any other person without the prior written consent of the Partners, except to such person and to such extent as may be necessary for the performance of the Services or as required by law.

17.4 The Partners shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that all Confidential Information obtained from other Partners under or in connection with the Services:

17.4.1 is given only to such of the staff engaged in connection with the performance of the Services as is strictly necessary for the performance of the Services and only to the extent necessary for performance of the Services;

17.4.2 is treated as confidential and not disclosed (without prior approval) or used by any staff otherwise than for the purposes of the Services.

17.5 The Partners agree that information relating to the provision of Services as defined in this Agreement may also be shared with the Welsh Government, Welsh NHS bodies and Audit Wales where this is necessary for them to meet their obligations as defined by statute, regulation or contractual commitment.

17.6 The obligations of confidentiality in this Clause 17 shall not extend to any matter which a Partner can show:

17.6.1 is in, or has become part of, the public domain other than as a result of a breach of the obligations of confidentiality under this Agreement; or

17.6.2 is required to be disclosed under any applicable law, or by order of a court or governmental body or authority of competent jurisdiction.

18. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

18.1 The Partners agree they will each co-operate with one another to enable any Partner receiving a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to respond to that request promptly and within the statutory timescales. This co-operation shall include but not be limited to finding, retrieving and supplying information held, directing requests to other Partners or parties as appropriate and responding to any requests by the Partner receiving a request for comments or other assistance.

19. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

19.1 Prior to any dispute difference or disagreement being referred to mediation pursuant to the remaining provisions of this Clause 19 the Partners shall seek to resolve the matter as follows:

19.1.1 in the first instance the issue shall be considered by Chief Officers with delegated responsibility for the Services;

19.1.2 if the aforementioned Chief Officers are unable to resolve the matter within 30 working days then the issue shall be referred to the Head of

Paid Service of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer of the UHB ('the Heads of Paid Service');

19.1.3 if the Heads of Paid Service are not able to resolve the matter within a further thirty (30) working days the provisions of paragraph(s) 19.2 and 19.3 shall take effect.

19.2 In the event of the Heads of Paid Service not being able to resolve the matter shall be dealt with by the following mediation procedure:

19.2.1 for the purpose of this paragraph 19.2 a dispute shall be deemed to arise when one Partner serves on the other a notice in writing stating the nature of the dispute;

19.2.2 every dispute notified under this paragraph 19.2 shall first be referred to mediation in accordance with the mediation procedures of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Group London;

19.2.3 the mediator shall be agreed upon by the Partners and failing such agreement within fifteen (15) working days of one Partner requesting the appointment of a mediator and proposing a name then the mediator shall be appointed by the Director of the Welsh Government for the time being with responsibilities for the oversight of the Services;

19.2.4 unless agreed otherwise the Partners shall bear their own costs of the mediation and share equally the costs of the mediator;

19.2.5 the use of mediation will not be construed under the doctrines of laches waiver or estoppel to affect adversely the rights of any Partner and in particular any Partner may seek a preliminary injunction or other judicial relief at any time if in its judgment such action is necessary to avoid irreparable damage.

19.3 In the event of the Partners failing to reach agreement following mediation the following procedure shall be followed:

19.3.1 in the event of the Partners failing to reach agreement on their dispute or difference following mediation pursuant to paragraph 19.2 one Partner may serve on any other a notice in writing stating the nature of the matters still in dispute;

19.3.2 the dispute or difference shall then be referred to the arbitration of a sole arbitrator to be appointed in accordance with Section 16(3) of the Arbitration Act 1996 ("the Arbitration Act");

19.3.3 in the event of failure of the Partners to make the appointment pursuant to Section 16(3) of the Arbitration Act the appointment shall be by the President (or if the President be unwilling, unable or unavailable) the Vice President for the time being of the Law Society;

19.3.4 the arbitration will be regarded as commenced for the purposes set out in Section 14(1) of the Arbitration Act when one Partner sends to the other written notice in accordance with the Arbitration Act;

19.3.5 the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrator(s) or any amendment or modification thereof being in force at the date of commencement of the arbitration.

19.4 This dispute resolution procedure cannot be used in relation to any dispute relating to the setting of the Budget or any revision of this Agreement.

20. EXCLUSION OF PARTNERSHIP AND AGENCY

20.1 The Partners expressly agree that nothing in this Agreement in any way creates a legal partnership between them.

20.2 No Partner nor any of its employees or agents will in any circumstances hold itself out to be the servant or agent of the other Partners, except where expressly permitted by this Agreement.

21. ASSIGNMENT AND SUB AGREEMENTS

21.1 A Partner shall not assign or transfer the whole or any part of this Agreement, without the prior written consent of the other Partners, except where expressly permitted by the Agreement.

21.2 A Partner shall be entitled to assign novate or otherwise transfer its rights and obligations pursuant to this Agreement to a statutory successor. This Agreement shall be binding on and shall endure to the benefit of the UHB and the Councils and their respective successors and permitted transferees and assignees.

22. THE CONTRACTS (RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES) ACT 1999

22.1 The Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 is hereby excluded.

22.2 No variation to this Agreement and no supplemental or ancillary agreement to this Agreement shall create any such rights unless expressly so stated in any such agreement by the parties to this Agreement. This does not affect any right or remedy of a third party, which exists or is available apart from the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

23. PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION / QUALITY CONTROL

23.1 The Partners shall have mutual policies and procedures to ensure that relevant controls, assurance, probity and professional standards are met.

24. COMPLAINTS

24.1 The Partners shall ensure that any complaints received about the Service shall be dealt with promptly and in accordance with their adopted complaints

procedures. For the avoidance of doubt where a Partner is acting as the Host Partner for a Service in this Agreement, where a complaint is received about the Service the complaints procedure of the Host Partner shall be used to deal with the complaint.

24.2 Where applicable any complaints which have not been resolved under the above sub clause shall be dealt with under any appropriate statutory complaints procedure which applies to that class of complaint.

25. NOTICES

25.1 All notices under this Agreement shall only be validly given if given in writing, addressed as follows:

25.1.1 if to the UHB, addressed to its Chief Executive as above; or

25.1.2 if to the Councils, addressed to its Chief Executives as above.

25.2 Any notices required to be given under this Agreement must be in writing and may be served by personal delivery, post (special or recorded delivery or first class post) or email at the address set out at the beginning of this Agreement or at such other address as each party may give to the other for the purpose of service of notices under this Agreement. Notices shall be deemed to be served at the time such an email is received or when the notice is handed to or left at the address of the party to be served (in the case of personal delivery) or the day (not being a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) next following the day of posting (in the case of notices served by post).

25.3 To prove service of any notice, it shall be sufficient to show in the case of a notice delivered by hand that the same was duly addressed and delivered by hand and in the case of a notice served by post that the same was duly addressed prepaid and posted special or recorded delivery or by first class post.

26. ADDITION OR REMOVAL OF SERVICES

26.1 As noted in Clause 3, the approach to integration will be incremental. This Agreement will be further refined and developed to reflect the ongoing implementation of the ICCS. An implementation programme has been established setting out milestones for the development of the ICCS and this will include actions to:

- Add Services that will be delivered in an integrated way across the ICCS pathways;
- Revise existing Schedules to achieve consistency and alignment;
- Ensure continuous improvement as referenced in 3.2;
- Review and refine the outcomes and performance measurement framework.

26.2 The Agreement will also be reviewed and adjusted as necessary to cover Services for other population groups.

26.3 The Partners may by mutual consent add further Services to this Agreement or remove Services from it.

26.4 The Services shall be added or removed by such amendment to the Schedules and the body of this Agreement as the Partners may agree which may include separate description of Services, Allocated/ Pooled Funds and management arrangements.

26.5 Any amendments to this Agreement shall be in accordance with the provisions of clause 16.

27. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

27.1 In relation to the Services, the Partners shall:

27.1.1 Treat each other with respect and an equality of esteem;
27.1.2 Be open with information about the performance and financial status of each;
27.1.3 Provide early information and notice about relevant problems; and
27.1.4 Co-operate with each other to agree joint protocols and any variance in such protocols as may be required from time to time.

28. FORCE MAJEURE

28.1 In this Agreement "force majeure" shall mean any cause preventing any Partner from performing any or all of its obligations which arises from or is attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond the reasonable control of the Partner so prevented including without limitation act of God, war, riot, civil commotion, malicious damage, compliance with any law or governmental order rule regulation or direction, accident, fire, flood or storm.

28.2 If any Partner is prevented or delayed in the performance of any or all of its obligations under this Agreement by force majeure, that Partner shall forthwith serve notice in writing on the other Partner or Partners specifying the nature and extent of the circumstances giving rise to force majeure and shall, subject to service of such notice (and to Clause 28.4), have no liability in respect of the performance of such of its obligations as are prevented by the force majeure events during the continuation of such events.

28.3 The Partner affected by force majeure shall use all reasonable endeavours to bring the force majeure event to a close or to find a solution by which the Agreement may be performed, despite the continuance of the force majeure event.

28.4 If any Partner fails in its performance of any or all of its obligations for a continuous period in excess of three months the other Partners may terminate

this Agreement forthwith by written notice, in which case none of the Partners shall have any liability to the other except that rights and liabilities which accrued prior to such termination shall continue to subsist.

29. SEVERABILITY

29.1 If at any time any part of this Agreement (including any one or more of the clauses of this Agreement or any sub-clause or paragraph or any part of one or more of these clauses) is held to be or becomes void or otherwise unenforceable for any reason under any applicable law, the same shall be deemed omitted from this Agreement and the validity and/or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired as a result of that omission.

30. WAIVER

30.1 The rights and remedies of any Partner in respect of this Agreement shall not be diminished, waived or extinguished by the granting of any indulgence, forbearance or extension of time granted by such Partner to the other nor by failure of, or delay by the said Partner in ascertaining or exercising of any such rights or remedies. The waiver by any Partner of any breach of this Agreement shall not prevent the subsequent enforcement of any subsequent breach of that provision and shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach of that or any other provision.

31. GOVERNING LAW

31.1 This Agreement shall be considered as a contract made in England and Wales and shall be subject to the laws of England and Wales as they apply in Wales.

31.2 Subject to the provisions of any jointly agreed dispute resolution procedure, all the Partners agree that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and settle any action, suit, proceeding or dispute in connection with this Agreement and irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of those courts.

32. DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

32.1 Annual plans will set out development activity for the coming year and annual reports will be prepared for the Regional Partnership Board outlining progress against planned activity.

IN WITNESS whereof the Partners have executed this Agreement as a Deed the day and year first before written.

Executed as a deed by affixing the

COMMON SEAL of

THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

In the presence of:

Signed (Authorised Officer):

Name/Position:

Executed as a deed by affixing the
COMMON SEAL of

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
In the presence of:

Signed (Authorised Officer):

Name/Position:

Executed as a deed by affixing the

COMMON SEAL of

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

In the presence of:

Mayor:

Signed (Authorised Officer):

Name/Position:

Executed as a deed by affixing the **COMMON SEAL** of

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
In the presence of:

Mayor:

Signed (Authorised Officer):

Name/Position:

APPENDIX 1: OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

This framework provides a basis for understanding the impact of the ICCS. Where specific measures in the framework are under development, these are noted. This framework will evolve over time and will be updated formally through the Integrated Leadership Board.

Category 1 - Population Wellbeing Outcomes

'Measures that describe the aggregate effect of our Integrated Health and Community Care System on our population'

- Healthy Days at Home. This is population health outcome measure of time spent outside of institutional health and care settings. Whilst the measure is being developed it will be necessary to reply on proxy measures. The following are suggested: length of stay in hospitals, length of stay in care placements, long term placement commissioned hours relative to population size.
- 'What matters to me'. We are exploring whether data collected about people's self-reported experience of health and social care can be aggregated to provide a picture of whether needs are regularly being met.

Category 2 – System Shift

'Measures that describe the extent to which we are rebalancing the system, meeting needs closer to home and reducing failure demand in acute healthcare and long-term social care provision.'

These are described in the environments in which treatment and care is provided. Specifically the community, care homes (which are part of the community but are drawn out here because of their distinctiveness) and acute and community hospitals.

Community environment	**Care home environment**	**Hospital environment**
Number and percentage of people with an integrated assessment [input]	% >75yo with Future Care plan in place [input]	Reductions in >75yo conveyed and admitted [output]
Number of urgent care contacts in Primary Care [input]	% care home conveyance without input from Clinical navigation hub – reduce to zero [output]	Reduction in LOS in hospital >75yo [output]
Clinical Navigation Hub demand and response data [input and output]	Conveyances and admissions from Care homes – reduce [output]	LoS in acute hospital less than 1 day >75yo (SDEC) [output]
Count of IAA integrated urgent response calls [input]	Percentage of deaths within 48 hours following an admission from a care home [output]	Reduction in Pathway of Care Delays > 75 y. o. [output]

Intermediate care team referrals and waiting times [input]		Readmission rates at 7 days and 28 days following discharge [output]
Unplanned community nursing demand [input]		Deconditioning measures e.g. care tariff / via Optimise [output]
Hold or reduce the level of long-term social care packages [output]		
Volume of commissioned care following a hospital stay – hold or reduce [output]		
Actual place of death compared to preferred place of death [output]		

Tier 3 – Service Performance

'A selection of performance metrics for specific services in and around our optimal community model'.

Measures will be selected for each Service within this Agreement and these will be set out in relevant Schedules.

- Percentage of GP practices that have achieved all standards set out in the National Access Standards
- IAA provision
- LOS in intermediate care team (urgent response team and long-term team) [output]
- Level of dependency pre- vs. post- involvement of intermediate team (6 weeks and 12 week)
- District nursing referrals and waiting times [input]
- Older people's mental health measures
- Number and waits per 100k population for
  - adult social care assessment
  - reablement
  - other therapies
  - domiciliary care
  - residential care
  - NHS Continuing Healthcare
- Telecare provision
  - Average annual falls per area
  - % falls where an ambulance was called with a response service in place
  - % falls where an ambulance was called without a response service in place

- Proportion of mobile response team (MRT) responses in less than 1 hour
- Median length of stay in hospital with a fall and long lie

Tier 4 – Feedback from our population and our staff

'A range of measures that describe how people experience different areas of service provision. Also how staff in community roles feel about their work – research shows job satisfaction correlates with service quality.'

- PROMS and PREMS. Family/ carer reported outcomes.
- Social care quality/ 'what matters' measures via the national performance framework/ local surveys of everyone with a care plan
- Survey of each person that has received intermediate care
- Staff wellbeing and job satisfaction from organisations' people surveys
- Staff sickness rates in intermediate care teams
- Staff turnover in intermediate care teams.

SCHEDULE 1.1: BRIDGEND COMMUNITY RESOURCE TEAM - HOST PARTNER, AIMS AND OUTCOMES & ACCESS TO SERVICE

1. INTRODUCTION

Services aims and outcomes for the Service at commencement of this Agreement are as set out here with details of the Host Partner.

HOST PARTNER: Bridgend County Borough Council

PARTNERS: Bridgend County Borough Council, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

2. AIMS

2.1 The overarching strategic aim of this Agreement is to ensure coordinated arrangements for the integrated provision of high quality, cost effective intermediate care services which meet local health and social care needs. Together we aim to:

- achieve the highest quality of seamless care with people using our services being at the heart of service planning, commissioning and delivery via an Allocated / Pooled Fund;
- increase the operational efficiency of the Services and ensure sustainability;
- optimise the mix of service provision skills across health and social care and develop more rewarding jobs and careers for staff;
- support greater and more coordinated engagement with the third sector and carers;
- enhance creativity and problem solving within the various multidisciplinary services with quicker decision making.

2.2 Partners BCBC and CTMUHB will co-design and deliver Services that meet the current and future needs of people in Bridgend. Through this Agreement partners seek to maximise outcomes by delivering integrated provision from allocated funds. This builds on a longstanding arrangement predating a boundary change for the University Health Board in 2019.

2.3 The background to this Service lies in the Western Bay documents: August 2013 "*Joint Commitment - Delivering Improved Community Services*", January 2014's "*Transforming care through investment in the intermediate tier – 3-year business case*" and the *"Statement of Intent on Integration"* from July 2014.

2.4 Whilst the Services described here are longstanding, the approach to develop a strengthened intermediate care tier is ever more relevant and important. It fits with the vision of Wales' 10-year health and social care plan 'A Healthier

Wales' and complementary policy in 'Further Faster: Developing Community Care Capacity' and the Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care.

2.5 As a regional partnership we are developing a new demand and capacity model which will be used to update the analysis upon which the original Business Case was built. This will influence the future shape of the Service and equivalent teams in other parts of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region as we develop regional care pathways.

3. SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Allocated / Pooled Fund will support a seamless range of Services that reflect the needs of the local population, in line with the agreed policies and the Services commissioned by the Partners. Within the defined scope it will fund the care for the residents of the Locality who present with health and social care issues by ensuring that the right care is provided at the right time, in the right place and at the optimum cost.

3.2 Early assessment will be delivered through an appropriate single process to assess the needs of Service Users. Where possible, interventions will be provided to people in their home for people who meet the prevailing eligibility criteria. The preference will be for time limited interventions, with publicly funded longer-term support (outside the scope of these Intermediate Care services) only where necessary.

3.3 Intermediate care services will be planned and delivered according to a single model across providers so that the clinical and social care needs of the Service User are met in the most effective way.

3.4 The Partners will ensure that the access pathway into specialist services is made easier for people with intermediate care needs including referral pathways to allied services and those provided by the Third Sector. This will include a rapid mobile response to respond to Telecare activations. This will complement other community-based services that assist timely discharge from hospital.

3.5 The arrangements will allow more effective service planning as the traditional barriers between health and social care definition and funding can be overcome by the Allocated / Pooled Funds and a single management structure. This will make the most efficient and effective use of public service and Third Sector resources together with carers in the community.

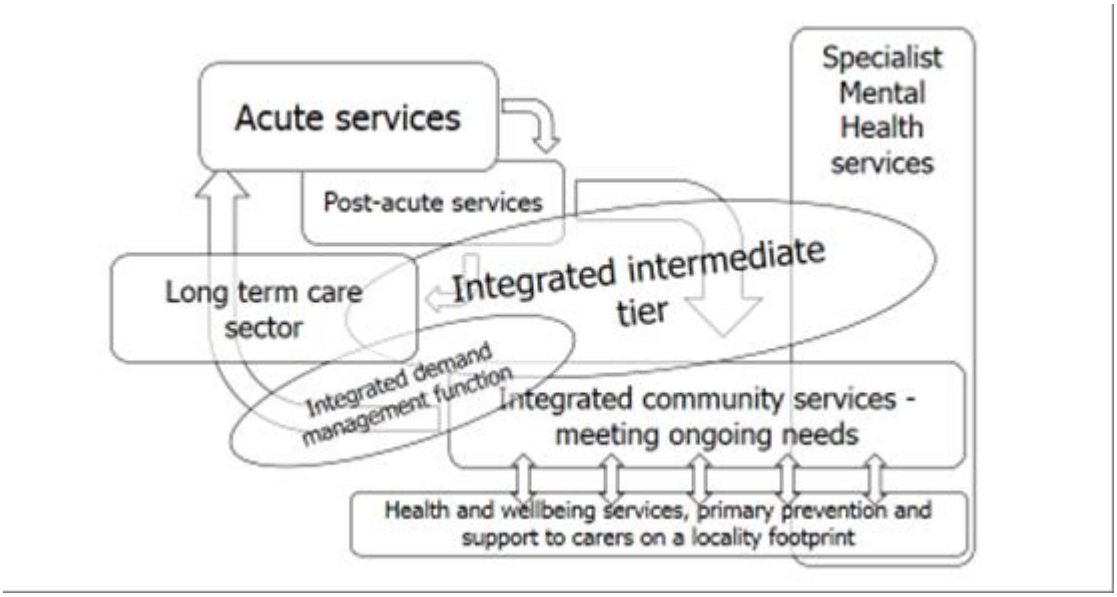
3.6 The integrated care operational manager shall maintain an awareness and knowledge of the Council and Health Board's policies and procedures so far as they relate to the Service and ensure that the Service complies.

3.7 An effective Community Resource Team will have the following positive knock-on effects in other parts of our health and care system:

- reduced unscheduled hospital admissions through enhanced rapid response and more focus on reablement;

- reduced occupancy of hospital beds by residents of the Locality utilised for post-acute recuperation or step up;
- reduced number of placements in residential and nursing homes because more people are supported to remain living at home;
- reduced need for ongoing domiciliary care packages through increased reablement and right-sizing care (regular objective reviews of needs and eligibility); and
- reduced hours of support that were provided at commencement of enabling intervention when leaving short-term enabling services intervention.

Schedule 1.5 provides detailed performance measures for the Community Resource Team.



4. SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

4.1 Strengthening our intermediate care model will mean:

- Enhancement of access and the speed of referral by further streamlining processes and improving the subsequent end-to-end pathways, reducing wait times, ensuring timely access to support.
- Delivering more integrated and collaborative approaches to intermediate care ensuring the benefits are delivered as planned to patients, individuals and each organisation.
- Development of the support processes and improvement of efficiency by reducing duplication, improving business processes and reducing administration effort.
- Optimisation of the skills mix across health, social care, third sector and carer provision and development of a cost-effective working pattern make best use of the expanded intermediate tier.

- Workforce development and enhancing job satisfaction and career options by addressing the traditional barriers to inter-disciplinary working and staff progression.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of intermediate care programs, gathering data on patient outcomes, and using this information to continuously improve service delivery.
- The development of a 'customer feedback' mechanism that records and acts on individual and carer comments and a 'stakeholder feedback' mechanism to capture ideas from referrers, Health and social care staff and the Third sector.
- Development of an audit plan to evidence quality in relation to interventions and record keeping.
- Maximising the impact of the Budget by improving the resourcing processes, enhancing cross-organisation team working, reducing operational duplication/administration and sharing equipment and facilities.

5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

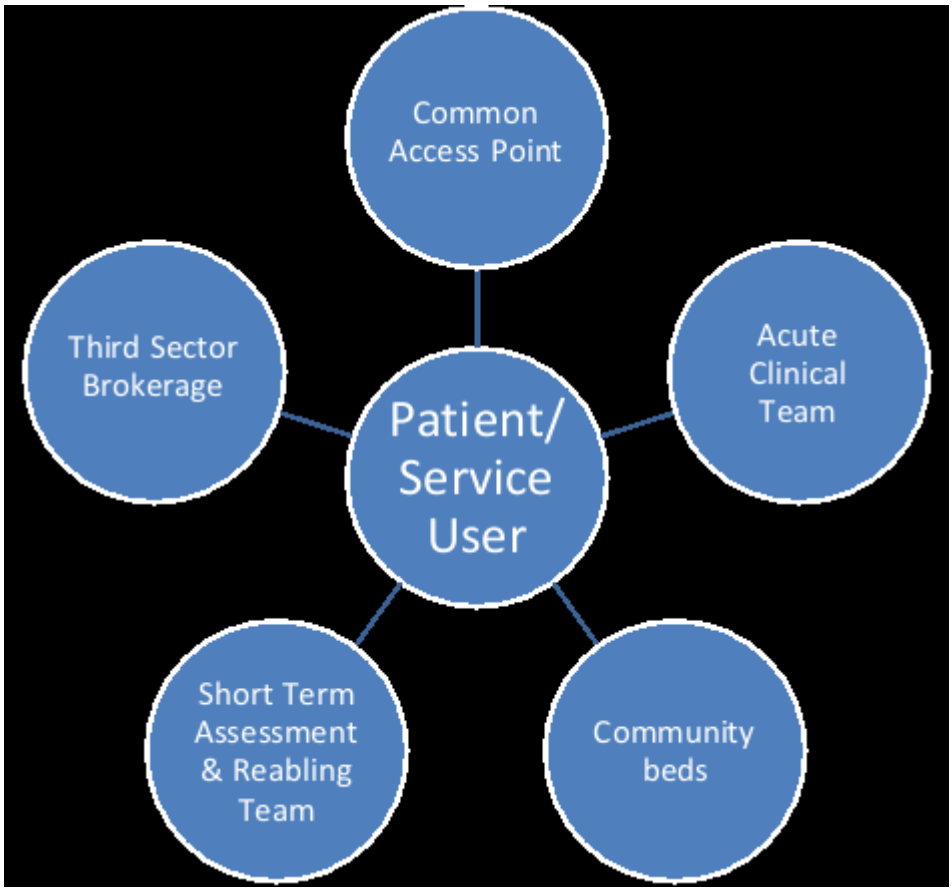
5.1 A set of measures will be adopted to monitor, report and improve the Service. They will be produced monthly to demonstrate the extent to which the Partnership's objectives are being delivered.

5.2 Measures are included in Schedule 1.5.

6. SCOPE OF SERVICES

6.1 The scope encompasses a range of intermediate care services, specifically those which deliver improved local performance by allowing more flexible use of intermediate tier resources between Partners including:

- Interventions that provide an alternative to a hospital bed;
- Interventions that support timely safe discharge from hospital;
- Interventions that reduce or avoid the need for an ongoing domiciliary care package;
- Interventions that reduce the need for long term residential care;
- Interventions that reduce the need for long term nursing care or continuing health care;
- Interventions that optimise independent living or improve carer's ability to manage;
- Services and facilities that manage access to the above such as the Early Intervention Prevention Hub.



The Allocated / Pooled Funds will cover the full costs of this provision, as detailed in Schedule 1.3.

6.2 The functions and services included within the scope of the Service are to be:

Function	**Services included (as at the Commencement Date)**
Front door to social care	Early intervention prevention hub (EIPH)
Rapid Response	Acute Clinical Team
Home and bed based Reablement	Short Term Assessment and Reabling team

7. ELIGIBILITY

7.1 The recipients of the Service are to be:

- adults of 18 years of age or over
- who are normally resident within the Locality whether at home or in a residential setting

- with a clinical or social care issue that threatens their physical health or independence
- who require an Intermediate Care Service that is funded by the Health Board or the Council (regardless of who provides it).

7.2 This does not include:

- Acute hospital care;
- Funding for long term residential care home placements;
- Continuing Health Care, apart from some assessments in the community;
- Mental Health or Learning Disability Services, although these patients may also have needs that are within the defined scope of Intermediate Care;
- Palliative care, although some physical care to support District Nursing Services may be included, Care provided by the Community Networks, the scope of which varies across the Cwm Taf region.

7.3 The Eligibility Criteria Threshold for Services will be as per the prevailing policies of the organisation that has statutory responsibility for that provision. Any changes to the Eligibility Criteria threshold may result in changes to the funding requirements and this should be taken into account during the planning.

7.4 Access to Services is available from a number of locations and across a number of channels and will develop over time.

SCHEDULE 1.2: THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD'S FUNCTIONS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD FUNCTIONS

Functions:

Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (after care)

Section 82 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (cooperation between NHS bodies and local authorities)

Section 1 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (duty to promote health service)

Sections 2 and 3 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (powers to provide health services), including rehabilitation services and services intended to avoid admission to hospital but excluding surgery, radiotherapy, termination of pregnancies, endoscopy, the use of Class 4 laser treatments and other invasive treatments and emergency ambulance services

Section 10(1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (arrangements with other bodies)

Section 38(6) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (duty to make available services provided by a person employed in the health service to enable local authorities to discharge functions)

Section 14A of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (plans following assessments of needs under section 14)

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

Functions:

1 Social Services functions contained in Schedule 2 to the Act, except—

(a) the functions in Part 5 of the Act (charging),

(b) section 144 of the Act (Directors of Social Services),

(c) sections 1 and 2 of the Adoption Act 1976,

(d) sections 114 and 115 of the Mental Health Act 1983,

(e) Parts VII to X and section 86 of the Children Act 1989

2 The functions under section 7 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986

SCHEDULE 1.3: RESOURCES - FINANCE & BUDGET SETTING

1. Introduction

1.1 This Schedule outlines the governance for budget setting and budget management for Allocated / Pooled Fund resources.

1.2 This Schedule provides details of the budgets, goods and services to be made available by the Partners for a Service.

2. Budget process

2.1 The initial budget planning assumptions of each Partner shall be shared by the Partner's financial leads and the Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager shall ensure that any matters relating to the Allocated/ Pooled Funds for a particular Service that might have a material effect on planned expenditure or income are identified and reported to the Joint Partnership Board which shall be no later than 31 December prior to the commencement of any Financial Year provide the Partners a proposed budget for that Financial Year.

2.2 By 31 January before the commencement of each Financial Year the Council and the Health Board shall advise each other of their anticipated budgeted expenditure in respect of that Financial Year. In the event that the amount of the anticipated budget alters during any formal budget approval process, then the one party shall advise the other party of that change without delay.

2.4 By 31 March before the commencement of each Financial Year the Council and the Health Board shall advise each other of their agreed budgeted expenditure contribution to the Allocated/ Pooled Fund the following Financial Year.

2.5 The Budget as approved by the Partners will be presented by the Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager to the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate) in each Financial Year for the Budget to be received by the Joint Partnership Board.

3. Financial Performance and Risk Sharing Arrangements

3.1 The Host Partner for the operation of the Service shall appoint an Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager (and there may be a separate Allocated Funds Manager for each Service) with responsibility for the integrated management of the Allocated / Pooled Funds, subject to the governance arrangements set out in Schedule 1.4.

3.2 The Budget is to be used solely to achieve the aims and outcomes set out in Schedule 1.1, and the performance framework as appended. An Annual Plan for a Service should be provided to describe this.

3.3 Each Partner will provide data to the Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager by the following 20th of each month to enable the Allocated Funds Manager to

submit reports to the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate) on a quarterly basis on the financial information and spend as referred to as Schedule 1.3 and performance information needed for effective governance of the Service as specified at Schedule 4.

3.4 Reports will be provided to the Joint Partnership Board more frequently as and if required.

3.5 Information is to be reported separately in respect of Allocated / Pooled Funds for each Service. The Partners agree to provide all necessary information to the Allocated Funds Manager in time for the reporting requirements to be met.

3.6 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall ensure that action is taken to manage any projected under or overspends from the budgets relating to the fund, reporting on the variances and the actions taken or proposed to the Joint Partnership Board.

3.7 If at any time during the Financial Year there is a projected under or overspend on the Funds Manager will prepare an action plan for presentation to and agreement of the Joint Partnership Board in order to manage the variance, for the particular Service as quickly as possible.

3.8 The Joint Partnership Board will consider any action plan where required and amend if appropriate or agree additional actions to be taken to manage the variance.

3.9 The Funds Manager will provide monthly progress reports to the Joint Partnership Board on implementation of any action plan, until such time that the under or overspend has been dealt with to the satisfaction of the Joint Partnership Board keeping it informed at all times.

4. Construction of Budget and Basis of Contributions

4.1 For the avoidance of doubt, any personal contributions payable by Service Users towards any Council services will continue to be collected by the Council, and not form part of the Allocated/ Pooled Funds.

5. Resources Available and in Support of the Partnership Outside of Allocated / Pooled Funds

5.1 Each Partner shall provide resources outside of the Allocated Funds, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate), for those activities deemed necessary to enable this Agreement to be discharged. These include, but are not limited to the following services:-

- Personnel;
- Contracts and management functions;
- Operations functions;

- IT functions;
- Finance functions; and
- Property functions.

5.2 Where additional work in support of the Service outside of Allocated Funds is at the request of a Partner to the other Partners, a charge can be raised by mutual agreement of the Partners where this constitutes an additional expense for the requesting Partner.

6. Accommodation Arrangements for Services

6.1 The Partners shall continue to provide or make available the premises (or suitable alternatives) that they provided or made available for the purposes of the Service before the Commencement Date, with the same level of support services and facilities management.

7. Commissioning and Procurement Arrangements

7.1 The Partners agree that:

7.1.1 The Financial, Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules of the Council will apply to all procurement activity undertaken by the Council;

7.1.2 The Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions of the Health Board will apply to all procurement activity undertaken by the Health Board;

7.1.3 Procurement activity will only be undertaken from the Allocated/ Pooled Funds in accordance with commissioning plans approved by the relevant Joint Partnership Board (via any local operational board as appropriate).

8. Hosting and Administration of the Allocated Funds

8.1 The Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager shall ensure that the Fund is maintained to national and professional standards and that the payment of suppliers' invoices complies with their payment terms, ensuring that no late payment charges are incurred by the Partners.

8.2 The Funds Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate financial systems are operational and in place for the Allocated/ Pooled Funds in order to provide the necessary control and production of financial information.

9. Information Requirements

9.1 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall ensure that all financial and other information required by the Partners in relation to compiling performance

statistics, statutory and other returns is made available by any agreed deadlines.

9.2 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall ensure that all financial and other information required to measure performance against the Services, as set out in Schedule 4, is made available by any agreed deadlines.

9.3 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall establish arrangements for making available all financial and other information necessary to assist the Partnership.

10. VAT

10.1 The VAT regime will operate in accordance with partnership structure (a) as referred to in the joint guidance issued by the Department of Health and HM Customs and Excise.

11. Capital

11.1 The Allocated Fund shall not normally be applied towards capital expenditure. If a need arises for the transfer of any agreed capital funds between the Partners then, unless the Partners agree otherwise, the Partners shall use the grant making powers under Section 194 or Section 34 of the Act.

SCHEDULE 1.4: GOVERNANCE - APPROVALS, OVERSIGHT & PERFORMANCE

1. Introduction

1.1 The Partners have agreed the governance arrangements set out in this Schedule in furtherance of the aims and objectives as described in Clause 3 and Schedule 1.1 of the Agreement.

1.2 It is the intention of the Partners to review the governance arrangements as a part of the Annual Review process set out below and as at Clause 9 of the Agreement.

1.3 Any variation to the Agreement shall be effected through the mechanism of Clause 16 of the Agreement.

1.4 The arrangements set out in this Schedule shall apply until such time as the Partners agree otherwise.

1.5 Any changes to the approved Service must be confirmed by the Bridgend Joint Partnership Board.

2. The Bridgend Joint Partnership Board

2.1 Ultimately, responsibility for the provision of statutory services resides with the relevant Partner (i.e. BCUHB or CTMUHB). For the functioning of this Agreement, the Bridgend Joint Partnership Board ("the JPB") is collectively responsible for the effective delivery of Services and outcomes described in Schedule 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

2.2 Services may only be added to this Schedule under Clause 26 through the agreement of the Council and the Health Board.

2.3 Services may be removed from this Schedule under Clause 26 through the agreement of the Council and the Health Board and as to be confirmed at the JPB.

2.4 The JPB shall:

- Set the annual priorities for the Bridgend Community Resource Team
- receive all reports required under the Schedule 1.1 and agree actions or refer proposals for action back to the Partners for approval as the case may be;

- review annually the operation of the Bridgend Community Resource Team in the context of the developing Cwm Taf Morgannwg Integrated Community Care System;
- review as necessary and confirm the Service's Standard Operating Procedure and undertake any risk assessment and agree actions and recommendations arising following the review;
- establish an Operational Management Board, which will meet monthly with the Allocated/ Funds manager to assess delivery. A lead member from each statutory organisation should be nominated, and they or a deputy must attend each Operational Management Board meeting. Additional membership shall be determined by the JPB.
- consult further and agree actions where appropriate on any plan and progress on priorities as necessary to ensuring suitable consultation and Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken for any major changes to Services arising from the Annual Plans for commissioning.

3. Operational Management Board

3.1 An Operational Management Board for the Service will assist the JPB in its activities through oversight of the operational management of the Community Resource Team.

3.2 The Operational Management Board will meet at a least 10 times per annum.

3.3 The membership of the Operational Management Board shall be agreed by the JPB upon admittance to the Partnership Arrangements and the JPB shall confirm the name of the officers comprising as a minimum:

- The Partnership Lead Officer from the Host Partner for any established Service
- The Allocated / Pooled Fund Manager from the Host partner for the Service
- Other members comprising
  - One non-host partner officer
  - One Finance officer (Council)
  - One Finance officer (Health Board).

3.4 The role of the Operational Management Board will be to receive such information as is necessary and as outlined in the Service reporting framework and to assist the Allocated Pooled / Funds Manager in the review, and development of the Annual Plan (based on the aims and objectives at

Schedule 1.1) and any other actions deemed necessary or helpful to effective arrangements for of the Services from time to time.

4. The Allocated/ Pooled Funds Manager

4.1 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager may delegate the day-to-day management of funds and objectives in accordance with the Host Partner Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations and such other applicable Service of Delegation.

5. Information Planning and Reports

5.1 The Allocated / Pooled Funds Manager shall supply the Operational Management Board on a monthly basis the financial and activity information as referred to as Schedule 1.3 on Resources and as set out at Schedule 1.4 as the activity reporting framework.

5.2 The Funds Manager shall supply quartely to the JPB meetings a summary report of performance and matters for its attention.

5.3 The Funds Manager will develop targets based on the performance measures in Schedule 1.4 to be agreed by the JPB from time to time and in any event by 30th July each year following a strategic and financial review to be led by the Operational Management Board.

5.4 Preparation of the Revised Annual Plan for Financial Years after the initial Financial year of the Term will be according to the following process in each Financial Year:

- **October to December:** The Allocated / Pooled Fund Manager will prepare a draft Revised Annual Plan. This will incorporate any proposed changes and will be in the form of a revised Schedule 1 of Service Aims and Outcomes, a draft Budget and any necessary revision of the Financial and Activity Reporting Framework content for JPB.

  The JPB will consider the draft Revised Annual Plan.

- **By 31st January:** The Funds Manager will submit to the JPB the draft Budget and a Final Draft Annual Plan for confirmation of their recommendation to the Partners for the next Financial Year

- **By 1st May:** The Funds Manager shall report to the JPB on the performance of the Service against any aims objectives or performance measures which relate to the Service together with the general effect of

the Service and in particular its effect on Service Users and the financial position of the Partners

6. Post-termination

6.1 The JPB shall continue to operate in accordance with this Schedule following any termination of this Agreement under Clause 11 of this Agreement insofar as in necessary to manage the effects of termination as at Clause 12 including any winding up arrangements.

SCHEDULE 1.5: FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Bridgend Intermediate Care Service

	PERFORMANCE AREA	KEY DELIVERABLES	HOW MEASURED	FREQUENCY
1	Finance	Expenditure in line with profiled budget	Budget reports – reviewed at monthly Operational Management Board meetings	Monthly

A quarterly summary will also be submitted to the JPB along with necessary reports including progress on Objectives as set out at Schedule 1 and the following Service performance data.

SERVICE ACTIVITY

	Measure
1	Number of adults with a care and support plan who received services during the year.
2a	Admission source of Community for Urgent Community Response clients seen in the period. (ACT) (7 day service from 07/10/2017)
2b	Admission source of Hospital for Urgent Community Response clients seen in the period. (ACT) (7 day service from 07/10/2017)
2a&b	Total of Admission Source of Community and Admission Source of Hospital for Urgent Community Response Clients (Total of Measure 3a & b) (7 day service from 07/10/2017)
3a	Hospital bed days saved by rapid response caseload during the month 65+ (IV Community)
3b	Hospital bed days saved by rapid response during the month 65+ (IV Hospital)
4	Hospital bed days saved by rapid response (Starters from community excluding IV)
5	Discharge destination of Community for Urgent Community Response clients seen in the period. (ACT)

	Measure
6	Discharge destination of Hospital/ Residential for Urgent Community Response clients seen in the period. (ACT)
7	Number of Unscheduled care medical admissions for people aged 65+.
	Rate (per 1000) unscheduled care medical admissions for residents aged 65+.
8	Number of hospital acute bed days occupied by Bridgend resident patients aged 65+ who were originally admitted as an unscheduled care medical admission
9	Number of hospital post-acute bed days occupied by Bridgend resident patients aged 65+ who were originally admitted as an unscheduled care medical admission
10	28 day unplanned care readmission rates for residents aged 65+
11	Number of people discharged from Hospital via Reablement
NEW	Number of people supported in the community by Reablement (NEW STARTERS)
12	Number of clients who were admitted to bed-based reablement and have returned home.
13	Number of homecare starts. (65+)
14	Average hours of home care per service user per week. (Please note from 2020/21 this figure excludes Short Breaks and Extra Care)
15	Telequip Starters
16	Telequip Leavers
17	Number of referrals to CRT (65+)

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**SUBSTANCE USE SERVICE PROVISION IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officer:	**MARK WILKINSON GROUP MANAGER LEARNING DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**This report seeks a waiver from the requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in accordance with paragraph 3.2.10 which makes provision for instances where goods, services and works are procured by another public body on behalf of the Council and in such instances those organisations procurement / contract procedure rules will apply subject to compliance with all legal requirements.**
Executive Summary:	**This report is seeking approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to recommission Tier 1 and 2 Substance Use services on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, (RCTCBC) to undertake the procurement exercise on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to re commission an integrated service provider for Tier 1 and 2 substance use service provision across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region in accordance with rule 3.2.10 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Approval to award the service contract will be sought via delegated powers (under the Council's Scheme of Delegation) once the procurement and evaluation process has been undertaken;

- Seek approval to enter into a regional collaboration agreement with RCTCBC to set out the responsibilities of each Authority for the initial procurement process and subsequent management of the service contract; and

- Delegate authority for the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, to enter into a regional collaborative agreement and any further deeds or documents that are ancillary to that agreement.

2. Background

2.1 The responsible Authorities that form Community Safety Partnerships have the statutory responsibility for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in their local area. In order to meet this responsibility Area Planning Boards (APB) were established in 2010 as part of new arrangements to deliver the Welsh Government Strategy "Working Together to Reduce Harm 2008-2018". APBs align with the Health Board footprint and provide a Regional Framework to:

- Strengthen partnership working and strategic leadership in the delivery of the substance misuse strategy.
- Enhance and improve the key functions of planning, commissioning and performance management.
- Pool resources to ensure value for money and reduce duplication.

2.2 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB is a multi-agency Board which includes representation from:

- Bridgend (BCBC), Merthyr (MTCBC) and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCTCBC) Local Authorities
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB)
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB Public Health Team
- Police and Crime Commissioners Office
- South Wales Police
- Welsh Government
- Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)

The APB is accountable to the Public Services Board in respect of all its activities.

2.3 <u>Funding</u>

2.3.1 The Substance Use Action Fund (SMAF) was established to enable the Welsh Government to allocate revenue funding to APBs on a regional basis. RCTCBC is the responsible authority acting as banker for the grant in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) region. An APB Commissioning Team is employed by RCTCBC to manage the grant and facilitate the requirements of the APB and Welsh Government.

2.3.2 Within the SMAF revenue grant there are specific "ring-fenced" allocations for Children and Young People and Tier 4 services (Inpatient Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation).

2.3.3 The SMAF also has capital funding which is allocated on an annual basis via a national bidding process.

2.3.4 As well as this University Health Boards (UHBs) ring-fenced funding for substance misuse services. Welsh Government requires that APBs work collaboratively with UHBs to ensure that plans are co-ordinated to provide the most effective use of funding and avoid duplication. Each year, the APB will scrutinise and "sign off" the UHBs expenditure plan to enable the UHB to draw down their allocation from Welsh Government.

2.3.5 Funding for Substance Use treatment and Support is also provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This funding provides services through the criminal justice system delivered by G4S / Dyfodol who are a key partner of the current CTM Integrated Substance Misuse Service.

2.3.6 RCTCBC is the nominated banker and grant recipient for the SMAF allocation on behalf of the APB area and administers the grant in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding and the agreement of the responsible authorities within the APB membership. RCTCBC employs a small commissioning team to engage with partners to coordinate the required functions of the APB. The team is managed by a Substance Misuse Lead Officer.

2.3.7 It is important to note the work of the role of RCTCBC as the banker of the grant; however, any work undertaken across CTM will be in collaboration with respective partners. It is imperative that all functions in the Bridgend area, including recommissioning, will be carried out with the full cooperation and representation of key partners and stakeholders in Bridgend.

2.3.8 All services currently commissioned for substance misuse within CTM fall within a 4-tier conceptual framework, which refers to the level of intervention provided:

- **Tier 1**: **Prevention & Early Identification/Intervention**. Consists of a range of drug-related interventions that can be provided by generic providers, depending on their competence and partnership arrangements with specialised substance misuse services.
- **Tier 2**: **Advice & Support Services.** Interventions are provided by specialist substance misuse providers and include a range of harm reduction interventions, and interventions that engage, retain, and support people in treatment. Support for families and concerned others are also considered to be tier 2 interventions.
- **Tier 3: Specialist Treatment Services.** Specialist provisions including all clinical functions, substitute prescribing programmes and community detoxification.
- **Tier 4**: Services provide substance misuse **Inpatient Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation programmes.**

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 There are currently two Integrated Substance Misuse Service contracts, one for Bridgend Integrated Substance Misuse Services and the other for Cwm Taf (not including Bridgend), both due to end on 31st March 2026.

3.2 The development of the procurement process commenced in April 2025. It is anticipated that the tender will be ready to be published at the end of July 2025 with the new service CTM Substance Use Service scheduled to commence on 1st April 2026. It is proposed that a contract be awarded for five years with an option to extend for a further one year plus a further one year.

3.3 It is proposed that RCTCBC, as nominated banker and grant recipient for the SMAF and Complex Needs Grant and employer of the regional commissioning team for the APB, will undertake the procurement process through the regional commissioning team. BCBC Procurement colleagues will be included in discussions to ensure compliance with BCBC requirements. The CTM Development and Implementation Group has overseen all development work and quarterly updates will be provided to the APB who are also cited on key decisions. The new service will be fully compliant with the Welsh Government Service Delivery Plan 2019-22 and the requirements of the SMAF and Complex Needs Grant.

3.4 It is proposed that a collaboration agreement be negotiated and agreed between BCBC and RCTCBC to govern their respective roles and responsibilities during the procurement process and setting out how the parties will collaborate to oversee the delivery of the service.

3.5 BCBC, RCTCBC, MTCBC, CTMUHB and the new provider(s) will work in partnership with the APB to contribute towards the following overarching outcomes:

- Reduce problematic substance misuse and dependency in our population.
- Enable early detection and support of individuals who are misusing substances.
- Provide high quality, evidence-based treatment and support according to service user need.
- Support service users to sustain long term recovery.

3.6 The new service will comprise of the following interconnecting components:

- A prevention and early identification/intervention service.
- A single Point of Entry.
- A children and young people's service including transition services for vulnerable individuals between the ages of 18-25.
- Treatment and support Service.
- Specialist service pathway.
- Shared care services.
- Sustained recovery; will be a separate lot.

3.7 Providers will work to the following principles:

- Evidence based practice including psychologically informed treatments and interventions.
- Collection and collation of data to understand demand and manage trends.
- A process of continuous improvement based on research and best practice to improve outcomes for service users and staff.
- A prudent healthcare approach including prioritising treatment for those with greatest need helping to make the most effective use of skills and resources.
- Person centred care recovery, building on people's strengths combined with a holistic approach based on an effective working relationship between service user and therapist, focused on harm reduction approaches, non-judgemental and non-discriminatory practice.
- Accessible points of entry, equity of access and a standardised approach across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region.
- Commitment to service user involvement, working alongside service users as equal partners sharing power and responsibility.
- Partnership working, integration and collaboration between all parts of the service, effective communication and clear pathways into Mental Health, Housing, Community, Children Services and the Criminal Justice system.
- Greater emphasis on prevention and early identification including universal and targeted education and advice.
- Assertive outreach to include proactively engaging with "hard to reach" groups and communities.
- Outcome focused practice with a clear evaluation framework.

3.8 The implementation of the components highlighted above, which will be underpinned by working to these principles, is designed, not only to address the areas where the need for improvements has been identified, but to continue the integrated model of service which is person centered and focused on improved outcomes for the people who use the service. Providing a consistent approach to the provision of substance use services across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

3.9 The APB recognises that service users and concerned others have unique experience and knowledge, which enables them to provide valuable advice and guidance in all aspects of substance use services. Our ambition is to deliver services which put service users' views, needs, aspirations, experiences, and expert knowledge at the heart of what we do. One of the vehicles to ensure this are the three active Service Involvement Groups across the region: Bridgend, Merthyr and RCT. The work will be strengthened alongside recovery support under the new integrated contract requirements.

3.10 The APB Commissioning team will work closely with the commissioned provider(s), BCBC, RCTCBC, MTCBC and CTMUHB throughout the implementation phase.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report.

Long Term. The plans for and operation of substance misuse services are designed to be robust and sustainable with long term goals and objectives and service developments which enable the services to adapt and change according to changes in demand for services.

Prevention. As described above many of the community services have a strong emphasis on prevention and providing people with information, advice, and support at an early point to help people avoid the need for services at tiers 3 and 4.

Integration. Substance misuse services are founded on an ethos of partnership and integrated working between health, social care, voluntary sector and service user and carer organisations. All developments are made in partnership and on a multi-agency basis.

Collaboration. All the services described in this report are provided on a collaborative basis through partnerships between the council, the health board and the independent sector.

Involvement. One of the basic principles of the operation of substance misuse services is the involvement of people who are using services in the design and delivery of the services they receive at individual, service and strategic levels.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There is climate change and nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 Substance misuse services are targeted at children and young people with ring fenced funding for this age group.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Substance Use services in the region are financed through three Welsh Government funding streams:

- The Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF): **£5,394,080 (Annual)**
- Complex needs: **£720,000 (Annual)**

The Local Health Board ring-fenced substance misuse allocation: **£4.092M (Annual)**

- BCBC currently provides an annual partner contribution from the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate core budget of £155,000. This has been confirmed as a commitment for 2025-26.
- The annual allocation for Tier 1 and 2 services that are subject to the procurement exercise is set at approximately £2m. Tenderers will be notified of this budget and asked to submit proposals that maximise their service delivery based on this funding.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- approve RCTCBC to undertake the procurement exercise to commission the integrated service provider for Tier 1 and 2 substance use service provision in Bridgend County Borough in accordance rule 3.2.10 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, with approval to award the service contract via delegated powers (under BCBC's Scheme of Delegation) once the procurement and evaluation process has been undertaken;

- approve BCBC entering into a regional collaboration agreement with RCTCBC to set out the responsibilities of each Local Authority for the initial procurement process and contract management of the service contract; and

- delegate authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, to agree the terms of and enter into the regional collaboration agreement and any documents or deeds ancillary to that agreement.

Background documents

None.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**PROCUREMENT OF AN OPEN FRAMEWORK FOR FLYING START CHILDCARE PROVIDERS**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE** **CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**STEPHANIE THOMAS, EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE MANAGER** **MELINDA POWELL – CENTRAL GRANTS TEAM MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	**This report highlights the vulnerability that currently exists by the absence of formal contracts with childcare providers offering Flying Start places in Bridgend.** **The report is clear that this situation must be addressed as a priority.** **The report seeks approval to go out to tender for an open framework to appoint providers to deliver childcare places under the Flying Start and Flying Start Expansion programmes at a fixed rate fee of £18.50 per session.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to go out to tender for an open framework to appoint providers to deliver childcare places under the Flying Start and Flying Start Expansion programmes. As part of the tender process a fixed rate fee of £18.50 per session (2.5 hours) per child will be implemented for all childcare provision.

2. Background

2.1 Since the inception of the Flying Start programme in 2007, the local authority has engaged the services of private and third sector organisations to support in the delivery of the childcare element of the programme.

2.2 Since 2007, the Flying Start programme has expanded. The first expansion was in 2012, and again in 2022 and 2024 with approximately half of all two-year-olds in Bridgend now eligible for Flying Start, either through the original programme or the Flying Start expansion programme.

2.3 Current arrangements for childcare provision have no formal contracts in place. The level of funding issued to providers outside of contractual arrangements is high and poses a risk to the Local Authority.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 As a result of Flying Start expansion, over 30 private and third sector organisations are now involved in the delivery of childcare places.

3.2 Further expansion of the Flying Start programme will take place in 2025, and it is hoped that by 2027, all two-year-olds in Bridgend will be eligible for a Flying Start childcare place.

3.3 A working group has been set up comprising of officers from Early Years and Childcare Team, Central Grants Team, Legal and Procurement with tender documentation and contracts currently being prepared in draft.

3.4 A fixed-rate fee, consistent for all providers, will form part of the proposed contract.

3.5 It is proposed that, from June 2025, preliminary market engagement with providers commences. This would involve workshops and one-to-one discussions with the aim of raising awareness of the tender process, supporting providers to understand the requirements and offering advice on submitting a tender.

3.6 Given the annual value of existing arrangements in the current year is in excess of £3 million, it is vital that contracts are formalised via a tender process which will be compliant with the new Procurement Act 2023. It is proposed that all existing providers are invited to tender to remain a local authority registered provider on an open framework in order to receive funding for Flying Start childcare places.

3.7 An open framework is a new concept introduced under the Procurement Act 2023 and allows providers to remain on a framework for up to 8 years once they have tendered and been successfully appointed. The open framework allows new providers to tender for a place on the framework which can be reopened annually to remove existing providers or add new. It will also allow flexibility to adapt the framework in line with the demand for Flying Start childcare provision at settings.

3.8 The framework will be a fixed list of pre-approved providers who can be awarded contracts over a set period, with or without a competitive selection process, to ensure the quality of care remains high and they retain their place on the framework. The call off contract can extend beyond the term of the framework itself.

3.9 Smaller community-based providers can submit a tender and join the framework to ensure there is Flying Start childcare in the communities in which the settings are based whilst also providing parents with more options to attend Flying Start childcare in areas in which they may work.

3.10 Providers on the open framework will need to meet and maintain the standards of the Quality Assurance Team and ensure documentation is completed to support performance reporting to Welsh Government and the Local Authority.

3.11 Providers must adhere to the terms and conditions of their call-off contracts such as eligibility checks, maintaining quality standards and following the funding arrangements in line with submitting invoices.

3.12 There is also the need to bring Bridgend's approach to purchasing places in mixed economy settings in line with the other 21 local authorities in Wales. This will provide better financial certainty and allow for more robust financial planning. It is proposed that the fixed sessional rate is included as part of the tender process.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 This proposal is focused on long-term security for the Flying Start programme and the Flying Start expansion programme by helping to secure the provision of adequate and sustainable high-quality childcare places and taking steps to ensure that accurate financial planning can take place. The proposal removes the uncertainty the programme faces around if and when providers raise their session fees and eliminates the possibility of providers ending their arrangement with the local authority with little or no notice.

5.2 The proposal, if agreed, will allow services to take action that aim to stop any issues around the wider Flying Start expansion before they emerge.

5.3 To support the development of this proposal, a childcare sufficiency officer has carried out interviews with the majority of private, voluntary and independent childcare organisations in Bridgend. Many of these highlighted sustainability concerns, which has led to the inclusion of the £18.50 per session (2.5 hours) per child recommendation and demonstrates the local authority's commitment to working with stakeholders and involving them in decisions that affect them.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications linked to this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The proposal reinforces the robust safeguarding requirements providers need to comply with to be able to deliver Flying Start places on behalf of the local authority.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Following consultation with Corporate Management Board, Early Years and Childcare Team, Central Grants Team and a number of neighboring local authorities, a recommendation to implement a fixed rate fee of £18.50 has been proposed, to bring Bridgend County Borough Council in line with other local authorities in Wales. This also factors in inflation, national minimum wage and increases in national insurance contributions. This fee demonstrates value for money, provides the majority of current providers with an increase in current rates and requires minimal additional financial resource from the Children and Communities Grant (CCG). Welsh Government have provided additional financial resource in the CCG 2025/26 and the two-year period following, to allow an increase in childcare fees in line with the factors mentioned above, which is sufficient to cover the shortfall in existing budgets.

8.2 The implementation of a flat rate fee will allow better financial planning longer term for Bridgend County Borough Council and bring consistency across both the childcare sector and other Local Authorities in Wales.

8.3 The introduction of a tender process, being on an open framework and entering into call-off contracts, makes the best use of public funds, ensures value for money and allows the Council to monitor against an agreed framework of quality provision, outcomes and impact of service.

8.4 The overall value of the Framework is dependent on funding from Welsh Government and the allocated spend for Flying Start under the Children and Communities Grant.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1.1 approves the use of the tender process in relation to private and third sector organisations providing Flying Start and Flying Start Expansion places on behalf of the local authority;

9.1.2 delegates authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing, to tender for the framework of childcare providers to deliver early years places under the Flying Start and Flying Start Expansion programmes in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory, HR and Corporate Policy.

9.1.3 notes that a further report shall be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the procurement of the Open Framework for a decision on whether to award the Framework and seek approval to enter into the Framework Agreement with successful bidders.

Background documents

None

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS FOR SERVICES BEING PROVIDED UNDER THE FLYING START PROGRAMME WITHIN THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES GRANT**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE** **CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**STEPHANIE THOMAS, EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE MANAGER** **MELINDA POWELL – CENTRAL GRANTS TEAM MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	**This report has been written to highlight the vulnerability that currently exists by the absence of service level agreements for services being delivered under the Flying Start programme in Bridgend.** **The report emphasises the need for service level agreements to be in place as they are critical to ensure efficiency and integrity of provision of service and safeguard the use of public funds under the terms and conditions of the Children and Communities Grant.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to enter into a service level agreements (SLAs) between Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB), in providing support to children and families in respect of the Flying Start programme.

1.2 The SLAs will outline the services that will need to be delivered under the grant's terms and conditions establishing clear expectations, a service delivery model and performance monitoring arrangements as instructed by Welsh Government for the provision of midwifery, enhanced health visiting, early years advisory service, and speech and language therapy.

1.3 The SLAs will both safeguard public funds and ensure that existing and future services are delivered in line with the Flying Start and Children and Communities Grant (CCG) strategic programme guidance and terms and conditions of the grant.

2. Background

2.1 Since the inception of the Flying Start programme in 2007 and more recently the Flying Start expansion programme, the local authority has engaged the services of publicly funded healthcare organisations to deliver essential services under the Flying Start programme.

2.2 Currently, there are no formal SLAs in place for these services. The level of funding issued to providers delivering the services and service delivery expectations outside of contractual arrangements is high and poses a risk to the local authority.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Currently there are no legally binding SLAs between Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and providers delivering services under Flying Start.

3.2 A working group has been established comprising of officers from Early Years and Childcare Team, Central Grants Team and Legal Services with SLA documentation currently being prepared in draft.

3.3 Given the annual value of existing arrangements, it is vital that SLAs are put in place to mitigate the risk of financial implications, service disruption and performance of the services being delivered. It is proposed that all providers delivering Flying Start services under the programme will have their own SLAs in order to deliver in line with Welsh Government grant terms and conditions.

3.4 SLAs will outline clear expectations between the providers and BCBC to determine key performance arrangements in line with Welsh Government's performance and data returns ensuring all information is accurately submitted, collated and reported in line with the grant conditions.

3.5 The SLAs will support BCBC and the provider to ensure there is clarity and transparency with providing services through the programme objectives.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 A better and more targeted use of resources. This proposal is focused on long-term security for the Flying Start programme under the CCG. The proposal removes the uncertainty the programme faces around if and when financial and performance returns are not submitted/incorrectly submitted in line with grant terms and conditions and objectives.

5.2 Protecting services that matter the most. The proposal, if agreed, will enable the council to take action should any issues arise in relation to the quality of service being delivered or should the expectation of service provision fall short of requirements outlined in the Flying Start and CCG strategic programme guidance.

5.3 To support the development of this proposal, the SLAs will have input from the providers providing the service ensuring that all parties understand the objectives, timelines, and responsibilities to ensure the service operates effectively and we meet our commitment to one council, working well together with partners.

5.4 It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications linked to this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 Flying Start services play a key role in supporting the delivery of intensive support to make a crucial difference to the life chances of Bridgend Flying Start Children 0 to 4-years-old and their families.

7.2 The priorities set out in the Flying Start programme reference a need to ensure delivery through the four core elements – intensive Health Visiting support, funded quality childcare, parenting support and support for early literacy. Each element will have their own SLAs in place.

7.3 As part of the SLAs, delivery partners will be required to confirm that their staff are trained to recognise the early signs of neglect and abuse and have systems in place to record and escalate concerns that arise.

7.4 Effective information sharing in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be obtained to work with Flying Start and collaborate with multi-agency teams to enable 0 to 4-year-old children in Bridgend and their families to be supported by Flying Start where applicable.

7.5 Staff will undergo regular safeguarding training, enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and ensure they are up to date on current safeguarding guidance and policies.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The Flying Start programme is funded by Welsh Government through the CCG. BCBC is responsible to ensure that funding is allocated in line with the grant's terms and conditions and that expenditure is compliant. The absence of SLAs poses a risk to the local authority in terms of public funds.

8.2 For the 2025-2026 financial year, BCBC has been allocated £10,004,770 through the CCG where approximately £6,618,838 will be allocated to the Flying Start programme. The funding is reviewed on an annual basis and therefore it is not

necessarily the case that the same amount of funding will be allocated in subsequent financial years.

8.3 Regular financial monitoring will continue to ensure concise and accurate reporting to Welsh Government in line with their reporting requirements.

8.4 SLAs will make the best use of public funds, ensuring value for money and allowing the council to monitor against an agreed framework of outcomes and impact of service.

9. Recommendations

9.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1.1 approves the process of entering into SLAs between BCBC and CTMUHB, delivering the Flying Start service;

9.1.2 delegates authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing to approve the final terms of the SLAs on behalf of BCBC and to arrange execution of the agreements on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory, HR and Corporate Policy;

9.1.3 approves any extension or amendment to the SLAs and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to the SLAs.

Background documents
None

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**HEALTHY TRAVEL CHARTER**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**HELEN HAMMOND, PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD OFFICER KIRSTY WILLIAMS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**THERE IS NO IMPACT ON POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE RULES**
Executive Summary:	• **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) have developed a Healthy Travel Charter to bring about far-reaching positive impacts on both health and the environment.** • **The Charter was formerly signed at the July 2025 PSB meeting.** • **An Active Travel User Group has been involved in the work from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and can be further expanded to take the Charter forward and ensure continuity.** • **The Corporate Director - Communities is the lead officer for BCBC in relation to the Charter.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the work of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) on a Healthy Travel Charter.

2. Background

2.1 Healthy Travel Charters have been developed and supported across Wales by Healthy Travel Wales and Public Health Wales. Across Wales, Public Services Boards (PSBs) are creating their own charters to promote and facilitate healthy travel.

2.2 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) are leading the development of the charter for the PSB in Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM). The charter links to their whole system approach to healthy weight by encouraging more physical activity and also delivery of the PSB Well-being Plan's commitment to

promoting active travel as part of the Objective on 'Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods'.

2.3 Research shows that reducing levels of physical activity, increasing levels of obesity, air pollution, social isolation, and worsening health inequalities are all pressing public health issues. How we travel has a wide reaching impact.
In Cwm Taf Morgannwg:

- 38% of people report being active for less than 30 minutes per week.
- 67% of people are overweight or obese.
- The most common cause of death for children aged 5-14 years is being hit by a vehicle

2.4 There are real benefits to be gained from helping people to use more healthy travel such as increasing levels of physical exercise, increasing contact within communities, reduced car use affecting decarbonation and air quality and promoting walkable communities.

2.5 Climate change presents a significant risk to our communities. Reducing carbon emissions as an organisation and in our communities is critical. Providing an environment that enables active travel in the course of daily life is one way we can work towards our net zero goals.

2.6 At the December 2023 meeting, PSB members agreed to work together on a CTM Healthy Travel Charter. A workshop was held in March 2024 with PSB member organisation leads and PSB members to work in more detail on the draft charter.

2.7 A CTM-wide Healthy Travel Network made up of active travel leads from partner organisations has been established and is supported by CTMUHB Public Health Team and PSB Officers. The work is supported by Sustrans who work with local authorities across Wales to monitor the outcomes of active travel and safe routes to schools. Sustrans also support the implementation of charters across Wales by providing resources, engagement events and activities and advice. This will be available to help partner organisations in CTM achieve the commitments in the charter.

2.8 The Network enables organisations to

- Work together on common areas
- Learn from good practice across CTM
- Learn from and receive support from Healthy Travel Wales.
- Contribute to the shared work plan
- Collectively feed into the PSB on progress and seek support for challenges.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 The draft plan for delivering the charter includes a wide range of objectives for PSB organisations to work on, recognising that different organisations are able to respond in different ways across their staff or services.

3.2 The Charter, attached as **Appendix 1**, focuses on changes that we can make to the way we work as an organisation that can enable more active healthy travel. A number of the elements relate to staff, and across CTM nearly a third of people of

working age are employed in the public sector. Working together to promote healthy lifestyles in our staff can also bring wider benefits to their families and communities.

3.3 There are challenges in public transport provision in CTM and there are limited resources available beyond our Active Travel Grant for improving infrastructure. The charter looks for action on areas where we can change our ways of working by collaborating across our organisation and with others in the region to enable more active and healthy travel.

3.4 BCBC is already working on many of the elements of the charter such as cycle to work schemes, providing facilities for staff to actively travel to workplaces, incentives such as earning mileage allowance for cycling for work purposes, flexible working arrangements and changing our Council fleet to electric vehicles.

3.5 Operating the charter should cut across all the services in BCBC that develop, implement and oversee well-being and healthy living such as: active school travel, active travel infrastructure, travel plans, rights of way, resilient communities programme, promoting walking for well-being, staff well-being and decarbonisation. It will be important that all these teams feed in to the achievement of the Charter.

3.6 A Cabinet Corporate Management Board (CCMB) meeting in March 2025 were informed that each organisation on the Public Services Board was asked to

- Formally agree to work towards the charter
- Establish arrangements to undertake that work within the organisation
- Identify a contact to the task group to lead the work in their organisation and provide an update on progress via the scoring system spreadsheet.

3.7 The Leader, Cllr Spanswick, signed the CTM Active Travel Charter at the PSB meeting on 10 July 2025.

3.8 BCBC have a small Active Travel User Group administered by the Transportation Team that includes officers from across the organisation. This can be developed further to be a network to drive this work across the organisation. This group will also be extended for community champions for active travel and encourage local groups to be formed

3.9 The Corporate Director – Communities will be the lead BCBC officer for the work.

3.10 It is important to build this work into organisational structures and objectives in order to ensure continuity over time.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The PSB Well-being Plan is prepared in line with the statutory guidance for Public Services Boards for the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It sets out the Well-being Objectives and how the PSB will work towards the national Well-being goals.

- **Long term** – the Charter seeks to understand and mitigate the long-term implications of poor health and physical inactivity, and reduce emissions linked to vehicle usage as more journeys are completed by active travel.
- **Prevention** – promoting healthy travel will work to prevent health challenges seen in CTM communities from getting worse, alongside preventing further deterioration in air quality.
- **Integration** – the work contributes to the Well-being goals: a Healthier Wales, a globally responsible Wales, a resilient Wales and Wales of Cohesive communities, and to the Well-being Objectives. There are already existing areas of work across council directorates which will be integrated through delivering the Charter.
- **Collaboration** – the Charter is being brought about through the PSB partnership and its range of partners.
- **Involvement** – officers from across BCBC and other PSB partners have been involved in producing the Healthy Travel Charter.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 Adopting the Healthy Travel Charter will have positive implications on climate change and on our local nature environment.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 This work promotes the wellbeing of all children, young people and adults across the County Borough. Reduced vehicle usage and safe active travel routes safeguards from the risks of being hit by vehicles.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this information report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of this update report.

9.2 It is recommended that Cabinet consider how to deliver the proposed activities contained within the Charter (Appendix 1)

Background documents

Appendix 1: Healthy Travel Charter

Healthy Travel Charter
Cwm Taf Morgannwg

We're taking steps to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and support staff health and well-being

Communications and leadership

Establish a healthy travel network
Establish a network of healthy travel champions across our organisations who routinely promote and model active and sustainable travel behaviour

Use consistent communication messages
Agree on and use consistent communication messages with the public, visitors and staff on healthy travel and reducing unnecessary travel

Consider healthy travel across our wider functions
Promote and consider healthy travel options and benefits across wider functions such as procurement, conferences, planning of workplace and office accommodation, and when advertising roles in our organisations

Provide strategic leadership on healthy travel
Collaborate with partners and provide strategic leadership and planning on healthy and sustainable travel, for example scoping the feasibility of partnership Park and Ride services

Involve our staff
Regularly involve staff in discussing what measures would help them shift to sustainable modes of travel, through travel surveys (at least an initial baseline and annual survey) and other initiatives, e.g. staff competitions and awards to encourage healthy travel

Support staff driving fleet vehicles to be responsible road users
Support staff driving fleet vehicles to be responsible and considerate road users (e.g. driving within speed limits and not parking in cycle lanes), to enable safe walking and cycling

Walking, cycling and public transport

Promote public transport discounts
Explore discounts on public transport for staff with local transport providers

Contribute to the interactive healthy travel map
Contribute to an interactive map showing, where relevant, our walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport links within our main sites in CTM

Provide staff with facilities and accessories to encourage active travel
Assess and provide secure and accessible cycle storage, showers and lockers where possible at suitable sites

Promote an 'active wear for active travel' approach
Promote an 'active wear for active travel' approach to work clothing and footwear, for example, allowing staff to wear trainers if their commute involves walking or cycling
(where appropriate)

Enable staff to access bicycles more easily at work
Improve access to bicycles at work e.g. Pool bikes or cycle hire (where appropriate)

Promote cycle training and maintenance sessions
Explore and promote opportunities for offering cycle training and maintenance sessions

Engage with the cycle to work scheme
Explore and promote opportunities for offering the cycle work to scheme to all staff (including e-bikes)

Working Practices and agile working

Support flexible working
Provide flexible working options where possible, including home and/or local hub working, and develop a culture of agile working

Explore options for hot-desking between organisations
Explore opportunities to enable staff to hot-desk between partner organisations and facilities across CTM, where appropriate

Encourage sustainable travel through our expenses policies
Review our travel expenses policies together, to encourage the uptake of sustainable travel

Ultra-low emission vehicles

Review the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities on our sites
Review the current and future need for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure on our sites, and explore the potential for making charging infrastructure available to other partners in the area

Review our fleet and procurement arrangements
Review our fleet and procurement arrangements (where applicable) for introduction of ultra-low emission vehicles, including e-bikes and e-cargo bikes, where relevant

For signatories please visit healthytravel.wales/CTM

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2024-25 AND QUARTER 1 UPDATE 2025-26**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**HUW POWELL CAPITAL ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfils that requirement. There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	• **The report provides an update on the capital programme outturn position for 2024-25, the quarter 1 spend and projected spend for 2025-26 as at 30 June 2025, the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26.** • **Appendix A shows the budgets and spend for the individual schemes in 2024-25.** • **Appendix B shows the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 30 June 2025 for the individual schemes in 2025-26.** • **Appendix C shows the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2033-35.** • **Appendix D provides details of the actual Prudential and other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' requirement to report performance against all forward looking indicators on a quarterly basis.

- Provide an update to Cabinet on the capital programme outturn for 2024-25 **(Appendix A)**.
- Provide an update to Cabinet on the capital programme position for 2025-26 as at 30 June 2025 **(Appendix B)**.
- Seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval of a revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 **(Appendix C)**.
- Ask Cabinet to note the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26 **(Appendix D)**.

2. Background

2.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

2.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance: -

- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
- CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
- Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments

2.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy 2025-26, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2025-26, was approved by Council on 26 February 2025.

2.4 On 28 February 2024 Council approved a capital budget of £110.537 million for 2024-25 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2024-25 to 2033-34. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 26 February 2025.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Capital Programme Outturn 2024-25

3.1.1 The original budget approved by Council on 28 February 2024 has been revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2023-24 and any new schemes and grant approvals during 2024-25. The revised programme for 2024-25, approved by Council on 26 February 2025 totalled £56.110 million, of which £27.343 million was to be met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £28.767 million coming from external resources.

3.1.2 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2024-25 compared to the actual spend.

Since the last report presented to Council on 26 February 2025 there have been a few minor amendments to the 2024-25 programme. The main changes are:

- New approvals of £0.491 million, as a result of additional Housing with Care funding of £0.091 million and a revenue contribution of £0.391m for Disabled Facilities, as well as £0.009 million revenue contributions for Breakaway and Bridgend Business Support Network as a result of revised expenditure profiles.

- These additions are offset by reductions of £0.115 million in the programme, including £0.100 million for the Bryntirion Comprehensive New Classroom scheme. Due to the school's current budget position, they are unable to contribute their funding as originally planned. Although the schools funding has been removed from the programme, the overall budget for the scheme is unaltered and the funding has been replaced by a virement from the Schools Capital Maintenance Grant. £0.015 million for the community Focused Schools Grant has also been removed from the programme as some items of expenditure on the scheme were deemed to be revenue in nature. This expenditure as well as the equivalent amount of funding has been transferred to the revenue budget.

- £1.895 million of funding has been brought forward from 2025-26 to reflect revised spend profiles.

This brings the revised budget for 2024-25 to £58.381 million.

3.1.3 Total expenditure as at 31 March 2025 was £29.331 million which, after slippage of £27.265 million into 2025-26, and adjustments to grant funded schemes of £1.768 million, results in a total under spend of £0.017 million. Slippage has arisen for a number of reasons, including delays in starting projects due to the need to undertake more detailed survey works, supply chain issues and ongoing discussions with funding bodies and other general programme delays.

3.1.4 The slippage of £27.265 million is forecast to be spent in 2025-26, the main schemes being:

- £0.695 million Bryntirion Comprehensive New Classrooms. Construction is now complete and the final snagging issues are being addressed. The handover of the building from the contractor is scheduled for July 2025 and the budget has been slipped to 2025-26 to fund the remaining costs of the scheme.

- £3.061 million School Capital Maintenance Grant. There have been a number of delays on the individual projects within the scheme due to capacity issues, plus an additional £0.730 million was awarded by Welsh Government in January 2025 for use in 2024-25 which increased the available budget. The remaining budget has been slipped forward for use in 2025-26.

- £0.953 million Community Focused Schools Grant. Projects approved for completion in 2024-25 are at various stages of development, delivery and completion. The remaining budget has been slipped forward to 2025-26 to ensure the approved projects are completed.

- £0.672 million Addition Learning Needs Grant. Projects approved for completion in 2024-25 are at various stages of development, delivery and completion. The remaining budget has been slipped forward to 2025-26 to ensure the approved projects are completed.

- £0.771 million Fleet Vehicles. The delivery of 3 vehicles expected in 2024-25 has been delayed until 2025-26. One recycling vehicle was delivered in April 2025 and two Highways vehicles are now expected by September 2025. £0.771m has been slipped to 2025-26 to fund the new vehicles.

- £1.268 million CESP/Arbed Phase 1. Remedial works are progressing with work ongoing on all homes enrolled in the scheme to remove all original insulation material. Installation of new insulation or cement render has been delayed by walls taking longer to dry out than initially expected and the delivery plan provided by the main contractor has been updated to adjust for this. £1.268 million has therefore been slipped to fund the works to be completed in 2025-26.

- £0.929 million Shared Prosperity Fund. There have been delays in the construction of the industrial starter units at Village Farm industrial estate due to poor weather conditions and ecological issues at the site. The construction phase is almost complete, and the units are expected to be transferred from the contractor to the Council at the end of August 2025.

- £0.989 million Grand Pavilion. The initial tender process for the project undertaken in June 2024 was unsuccessful, with the only bid received being considerably above the budget available. This led to a value engineering exercise, which reduced the scheme delivery scope to align the delivery with available budget. A second tender process has now been completed and the main construction contract has been awarded. The contractor is now on site, and £0.989 million has been slipped to 2025-26 to fund the works being undertaken.

- £0.530 million Homelessness and Housing. In July 2022 Council approved £0.530 million to match fund Welsh Government grant monies received by V2C to bring long term void properties back into use to assist with the increase demand for social housing. Due to technicalities with the Welsh Government funding, V2C were unable to utilise the funding for the properties originally identified, therefore, in July 2024 Council approved that the allocation should be refocused to fund other works undertaken by V2C to manage voids and to bring houses back into use. Work is ongoing with V2C to identify how this funding can be allocated.

- £0.802 million Affordable Housing. The Council was successful in purchasing a property on Coity Road in July 2024, adding to the property purchased on Park Street in 2023-24. The remaining budget has been slipped to 2025-26 to purchase additional properties, and the suitability of two properties is currently being assessed.

- £0.773 million Corporate Capital Fund. The Corporate Capital Fund was established in 2019, and was intended to be used to provide, amongst other things, match funding for new grant schemes, ICT and equipment replacement and to meet unanticipated pressures. It was included in the capital programme as an annual allocation of £0.200 million. However, in November 2024, Council

agreed to cease this annual allocation from 2025-26 as very little had been spent from it. The balance at that time from previous years was retained in the capital programme. Allocation of this funding is subject to Corporate Management Board approval. This will be monitored during 2025-26 and, if it is deemed that it is not needed in part or full, an element of this budget could be allocated to other capital schemes.

- £2.998 million Minor Works. Due to delays in completing a number of minor works schemes across all directorates, funding has been slipped for use in 2025-26.

3.2 Capital Programme Quarter 1 Update 2025-26

3.2.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2025-26 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2025-26 currently totals £156.643 million, of which £71.279 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £85.364 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the February 2025 approved Council position to Quarter 1:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2025-26

Directorate	Approved Council February 2025 £'000	Net Slippage (to) / from 2024-25 £'000	New Approvals/ (Reductions) £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000
Education, Early Years and Young People (EEYYP)	82,781	9,247	29,491	(22,093)	99,426
Social Services and Wellbeing	-	458	503	-	961
Communities	37,724	13,037	13,837	(15,982)	48,616
Chief Executive's	2,930	1,567	654		5,151
Council Wide	1,428	1,061	-		2,489
Total	**124,863**	**25,370**	**44,485**	**(38,075)**	**156,643**

3.2.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2025-26. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2025-26 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
BCBC Resources:	
Capital Receipts	23,898
Earmarked Reserves	26,700
Unsupported Borrowing	13,384
Supported Borrowing	3,810
Other Loans	3,180
Revenue Contribution	307
Total BCBC Resources	**71,279**
External Resources:	
S106	4,241
Grants	81,123
Total External Resources	**85,364**
TOTAL RESOURCES	**156,643**

3.2.3 **Appendix B** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2025-26 compared to the projected year end spend at 30 June 2025. There are currently no projected under or over spends on any of the schemes at year end.

3.2.4 However, a number of schemes have been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2026-27 and beyond).

Highways/Other Offsite Works Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Schools (£2.392 million)
The highways budget in relation to Band B schemes will be expended once works have been designed and commissioned. It is anticipated that the majority of costs will be incurred in future years and therefore £2.392 million has been slipped to 2026-27.

Bridgend West (£19.701 million)
Confirmation of Welsh Government's funding for the Bridgend West scheme has now been received, has been added to the programme and is referenced in paragraph 3.2.5. The latest cost projections from the scheme's consultants show that the majority of costs will be incurred in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Therefore £19.701 million has been slipped to fund expenditure in 2026-27.

Grand Pavilion (£15.982 million)
Following a successful tender process, the contractor is now on-site, and they have provided a projected cashflow for the scheme through to completion. Therefore, £15.982 million has been slipped forward to fund the costs incurred in future years.

3.2.5 There are a number of amendments to the capital programme for 2025-26, such as new and amended schemes, since the capital programme was last approved, including:

Bridgend West (£28.628 million)
Following submission of the Full Business Case, Welsh Government have confirmed that the application for funding from the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme for Bridgend West has been successful. £28.628 million and has been added to the previously approved funding in the programme.

Coety Primary School Extension / Pencoed Primary School Extension (£0.616 million) virement
Capital Programme Board recently considered the anticipated £0.180 million funding shortfall in respect of the proposed two-classroom extension at Pencoed Primary School and determined that committing an additional £0.180 million to the £0.900 million approved by Council in 2022 for the scheme does not represent the most efficient use of resources. The nearby Croesty Primary School currently has a significant surplus of available pupil places (2 entire classrooms unused). As such, it is considered that it would be a more efficient use of resources to explore the possibility of using the s106 funding towards improving facilities at Croesty Primary School and/or Pencoed Comprehensive rather than to progress the Pencoed extension scheme. The removal of the £0.226 million s106 funding is shown as a negative approval in Appendix B. The s106 funding will be reinstated in the capital programme once confirmation is received that it can be used for future schemes at Croesty Primary School and/or Pencoed Comprehensive.

Following a pre-tender costing exercise, it has become evident that the current budget allocated in the capital programme in respect of the proposed Coety four-classroom extension approved by Council in 2022 is insufficient. Consequently, there is currently an anticipated shortfall of £0.711 million. The BCBC element of the funding for Pencoed Primary, £0.616 million, has been vired to the Coety extension budget and a value engineering exercise is being undertaken to reduce the scope of the scheme and reduce the cost of the scheme to fall within the revised budget.

Schools Capital Maintenance Grant (£1.089 million)
Welsh Government have awarded the Council £1.089 million from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Repairs and Maintenance Grant. The funding will support capital maintenance work and will assist in reducing revenue costs by improving energy efficiency and performance of the school buildings.

All Wales Play Opportunities (£0.231 million)
The Council have been awarded £0.231 million from Welsh Government's All Wales Play Opportunities grant for 2025-26. The purpose of the funding is to respond to shortfalls identified within the Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025 and allows the flexibility to purchase large scale items to improve the quality of play spaces, refurbish playgrounds and to also support the creation of inclusive and accessible play spaces. The funding will be used to upgrade the playground facilities at Bryngarw Park.

Bridgend Life Centre (£0.272 million)
Sport Wales have awarded the Council a grant of £0.240 million to part fund the installation of flexible, moveable floor space in the bowls hall at Bridgend Life Centre,

as well as the upgrading of the lighting to LED. The total cost of the scheme is £0.272 million, with BCBC's match funding of £0.032 million coming from the Sports Development team's revenue budget.

Civil Parking Enforcement (£0.045 million)

The civil parking enforcement car camera equipment has been in use since 2018 and is no longer being supported by the manufacturer. £0.045 million has been added to the capital programme to upgrade the camera equipment allowing the enforcement car to continue monitoring road safety across the borough. The new camera equipment will be funded from the existing Civil Parking Enforcement earmarked reserve.

Road Signs 20mph Default Speed (£0.209 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.209 million to support the implementation of the 20mph default speed limit on restricted roads across the County Borough, which came in to force on 17 September 2023.

Public Rights of Way (£0.050 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.050 million from the Access Improvement Grant, for use in 2025-26. The purpose of the Access Improvement Grant (AIG) is to support improving access to/on the Public Rights of Way network, open access land, green and blue space in Wales. As well as the grant award for 2025-26, a further £0.066 million has been awarded for use in 2026-27.

Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund 2 (£0.104 million)

The Council have been awarded £0.104 million from Welsh Government's Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund, to promote electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects in alignment with Welsh Government's electric vehicle charging strategy. The funding will be used for a residential charge point pilot scheme, installing electric vehicle chargers in four streets with approximately four chargers in each street.

Fleet Vehicles (£1.200 million)

On 12 March 2025, Council approved an additional £1.200 million funding for the Fleet Vehicles budget. Due to the reallocation of capital funding to the procurement of waste fleet in June 2024 the programme for general vehicle replacement had to be temporarily halted, and this has led to issues in vehicle and plant reliability as the backlog of vehicles due for replacement increases. The additional budget will be used to purchase vehicles for Highways, Green Spaces and Building Maintenance and will be funded by prudential borrowing, with the repayments met from the directorate's revenue budget.

Coal Tip Safety (£1.795 million)

Following a grant funding application submitted by officers in January 2025, £1.795 million has been awarded by Welsh Government from 2025-26 Coal Tip Safety Grant. The funding will allow the Council to undertake the appropriate inspections, surveys and any necessary maintenance / remediation works on coal tips within the county borough.

Highways Maintenance LGBI (£2.908 million)

As outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-2029 Welsh Government has introduced a Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI), aimed at accelerating

highways repairs and improvements. The initiative allows local councils to borrow money to fix deteriorating roads and pavements, with the Welsh Government funding being used to fund the costs of borrowing. The LGBI scheme enables the Council to deliver £2.908 million of capital investment in 2025-26 and £1.939 million in 2026-27 to address the backlog of highways maintenance, helping to fix local roads and in doing so, delivering against Welsh Government's Connecting Communities priority.

Resilient Roads (£0.494 million)
Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.494 million to support transport projects that mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including addressing disruptions caused on the highway network by severe weather. The grant will fund works on the A4061 from Junction 36 of the M4 to Heol Canola in Sarn, and on the A4064, King Edward Street in Blaengarw.

Urban Centre Property Enhancement (£0.650 million)
Welsh Government have approved the extension of the Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant to March 2027, and have awarded the Council £0.650 million for 2025-26 and a further £0.650 million for 2026-27. Property owners can apply for the funding via the BCBC website and it can be used to enhance commercial buildings and residential accommodation above commercial units in Maesteg, Porthcawl and Bridgend town centres.

Shared Prosperity Fund (£2.148 million)
As announced in the 2024 Autumn Budget, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been extended for 2025-26, and Bridgend CBC has been allocated £2.148 million of capital funding from the UK Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This will enable the existing projects supporting local businesses and communities funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund to continue for a further 12 months.

Local Places for Nature (£0.367 million)
The Wales Council for Voluntary Action have awarded the Council £0.367 million for 2025-26 and a further £0.367 million for 2026-27 from the Local Place for Nature Grant. The Bridgend Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is part of a nature recovery network across all of Wales. The grant is distributed directly to LNP's and their host organisations (in this case, BCBC) to enable them to plan and deliver large nature projects that will have a greater impact on the area's biodiversity. In collaboration with other members of the Bridgend LNP, the funding will help deliver nature enhancement and creation projects across Bridgend where people live, work and access public services.

Porthcawl Grand Pavilion (£3.867 million)
On the 12 March 2025, Council approved an additional £3.867 million funding for the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion scheme. Costs for this project have increased since the original designs were costed in 2022. Despite an exercise in value engineering, two separate tender exercises have demonstrated that the market in 2025 has changed significantly and, due to market inflation and significant changes to material costs, the baseline cost of this project has changed. The additional budget will be funded from capital receipts, which have been received from Welsh Government as a result of the revised Owners Agreement for the land at Salt Lake and Hillsboro North.

Enable Grant (£0.382 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.382 million from the Enable – Support for Independent Living 2025-26 grant. The purpose of the grant is to help older, disabled and vulnerable people by improving individual's ability to maintain independence at home, tackling preventable accidents within the home and promoting their all-round wellbeing. Priorities for expenditure and the implementation of the scheme will have regard to the views of local partners, including the Local Health Board, Registered Social Landlords, local Care & Repair agencies, the Regional Partnership Board, and service users.

Empty Property Enforcement Fund (£0.272 million)

Following Cabinet approval on 22 October 2024, officers have accessed Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Empty Property Enforcement Fund by entering into loan agreements with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, who are the Authority responsible for the management of the enforcement fund. The Council will undertake enforcement action on two long term empty properties, to bring them back into beneficial use. The first loan of £0.250 million will fund the compulsory purchase of a long-term empty property, and the second loan of £0.022 million will fund remedial works at a different long term empty property.

3.2.6 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix C.**

3.3 Prudential and Other Indicators - 2024-25 Outturn and 2025-26 Monitoring

3.3.1 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure; capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end a number of prudential indicators were included in the Capital Strategy which was approved by Council. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

3.3.2 In February 2025, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2025-26, which included the Prudential Indicators for 2025-26.

3.3.3 **Appendix D** details the actual indicators for 2024-25, the estimated indicators for 2025-26 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2025-26 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved indicators.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty, and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services, and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 These are reflected within the report where relevant to specific schemes.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the Council's Capital Programme Outturn for 2024-25 **(Appendix A)**.
- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 1 update to 30 June 2025 **(Appendix B)**
- agrees that the revised Capital Programme **(Appendix C)** be submitted to Council for approval.
- notes the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and the projected indicators for 2025-26 **(Appendix D)**.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT **2024-25 OUTTURN REPORT**

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 25) £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Brought Forward from 2025-26 £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slipped to 2025-26 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Education, Early Years and Young People										
1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	100				100	8	(92)	92	-	-
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	138				138	27	(111)	111	-	-
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	512				512	337	(175)	175	-	-
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	411				411	312	(99)	99	-	-
5	BRIDGEND WEST	-			1,893	1,893	1,893	-	-	-	-
6	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	97				97	3	(94)	94	-	-
7	LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	-			2	2	2	-	-	-	-
8	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	61				61	-	(61)	61	-	-
9	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	51				51	-	(51)	51	-	-
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56				56	-	(56)	56	-	-
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	277				277	1	(276)	276	-	-
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	38				38	12	(26)	26	-	-
13	EEYYP MINOR WORKS	462		290		752	185	(567)	567	-	-
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	56				56	6	(50)	50	-	-
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	336				336	3	(333)	333	-	-
16	PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	862				862	20	(842)	842	-	-
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	138				138	108	(30)	30	-	-
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE NEW CLASSROOMS	1,660	(100)	100		1,660	965	(695)	695	-	-
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS	134				134	68	(66)	66	-	-
20	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	4,255		(100)		4,155	1,094	(3,061)	3,061	-	-
21	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	550				550	-	(550)	550	-	-
22	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	550				550	-	(550)	550	-	-
23	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	1,444				1,444	869	(575)	575	-	-
24	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	2,328	(15)	30		2,343	1,390	(953)	953	-	-
25	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	1,229		(30)		1,199	527	(672)	672	-	-
26	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	437				437	1	(436)	436	-	-
27	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	370				370	189	(181)	181	-	-
28	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	563				563	59	(504)	504	-	-
29	FLYING START HIGHWAYS	36				36	-	(36)	36	-	-
	TOTAL Education, Early Years and Young People	**17,151**	**(115)**	**290**	**1,895**	**19,221**	**8,079**	**(11,142)**	**11,142**	**-**	**-**
	Social Services and Wellbeing										
30	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	40				40	-	(40)	40		-
31	TY CWM OGWR	23				23	-	(23)	23		-
32	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	212		83		295	53	(242)	242		-
33	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10				10	-	(10)	10		-
34	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	74				74	56	(18)	18		-
35	BREAKAWAY	98	4			102	102	-	-		-
36	COMMUNITY CENTRES	167				167	50	(117)	117		-
37	BRYNGARW HOUSE	8				8	-	(8)	8		-
38	YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURT	99			-	99	93	(6)		(6)	-
39	OGMORE VALLEY LIFE CENTRE	108				108	97	(11)			(11)
	TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	**839**	**4**	**83**	**-**	**926**	**451**	**(475)**	**458**	**(6)**	**(11)**

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 25) £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Brought Forward from 2025-26 £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slipped to 2025-26 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Communities										
	Street Scene										
40	COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	1,851				1,851	1,490	(361)	361		
41	PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	436				436	382	(54)	54		
42	ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	(11)	11		
43	COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	75				75	53	(22)	22		
44	REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135				135	-	(135)	135		
45	CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	20				20	11	(9)	9		
46	20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	521				521	186	(335)		(335)	
47	ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	6				6	3	(3)	3		
48	HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	494				494	440	(54)	54		
49	CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250				250	198	(52)	52		
50	PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	65				65	44	(21)		(21)	
51	HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT	1,000				1,000	986	(14)	14		
52	REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	496				496	377	(119)	119		
53	RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	22				22	-	(22)	22		
54	COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	762		(23)		739	157	(582)	582		
55	ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	23				23	16	(7)	7		
56	FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	155				155	101	(54)	54		
57	NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	147				147	-	(147)	147		
58	EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE	454		71		525	525	-	-		
59	PORTHCAWL METRO LINK (CCR)	948				948	929	(19)	19		
60	RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	109				109	-	(109)	109		
61	FLEET VEHICLES	1,864				1,864	1,093	(771)	771		
62	CORNELLY CEMETERY EXTENSION	5				5	5	-	-		
63	PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXTENSION	35				35	35	-	-		
64	CEMETERIES	314				314	-	(314)	314		
65	S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	39				39	4	(35)	35		
66	ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	380				380	313	(67)	67		
67	PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	6				6	-	(6)			(6)
68	COAL TIP SAFETY	457				457	379	(78)		(78)	
69	TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	290		(66)		224	224	-	-		
70	GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT	340				340	239	(101)	101		
	TOTAL Streetscene	11,710	0	-18	0	11,692	8,190	-3,502	3,062	-434	-6
	Regeneration & Development										
71	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	436				436	-	(436)	436		
72	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,866				2,866	39	(2,827)	2,827		
73	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	417		(102)		315	-	(315)	315		
74	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	210				210	26	(184)	184		
75	EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	493				493	8	(485)	485		
76	CESP/ARBED PHASE 1	1,378				1,378	110	(1,268)	1,268		
77	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	1,547		33		1,580	1,519	(61)	61		
78	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	219				219	86	(133)	133		
79	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	124		23		147	58	(89)	89		
80	BRIDGEND BUSINESS SUPPPORT NETWORK	-	5	102		107	107	-	-		
81	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT FUND	134				134	-	(134)	134		
82	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	1,024				1,024	475	(549)		(549)	
83	2030 DECARBONISATION	715		(107)		608	169	(439)	439		

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 25) £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Brought Forward from 2025-26 £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slipped to 2025-26 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
84	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	4,931		(184)		4,747	3,101	(1,646)	929	(717)	
85	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	110				110	48	(62)		(62)	
86	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	1,675		132		1,807	818	(989)	989		
87	LOW CARBON HEAT GRANT	1,089		55		1,144	1,144	-	-		
	TOTAL Regeneration & Development	17,368	5	- 48	-	17,325	7,708	(9,617)	8,289	(1,328)	-
	Corporate Landlord										
88	DDA WORKS	206				206	8	(198)	198		
89	MINOR WORKS	1,601		(373)		1,228	166	(1,062)	1,062		
90	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	177				177	70	(107)	107		
91	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	517				517	245	(272)	272		
92	EVERGREEN HALL	60				60	60	-	-		
93	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47				47	-	(47)	47		
	TOTAL Corporate Landlord	2,608	-	(373)	-	2,235	549	(1,686)	1,686	-	-
	TOTAL Communities	**31,686**	**5**	**(439)**	**-**	**31,252**	**16,447**	**(14,805)**	**13,037**	**(1,762)**	**(6)**
	Chief Executive										
94	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,947	482			2,429	2,429	-	-		
95	DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200		55		255	255	-	-		
96	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	73		(56)		17	17	-	-		
97	ENABLE GRANT	270		1		271	271	-	-		
98	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530				530	-	(530)	530		
99	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	1,066				1,066	264	(802)	802		
	TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	4,086	482	-	-	4,568	3,236	(1,332)	1,332	-	-
100	ICT INFRA SUPPORT	795				795	743	(52)	52		
101	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	102				102	5	(97)	97		
102	CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	38				38	9	(29)	29		
103	ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	238				238	199	(39)	39		
104	HWB SCHOOLS IT	180				180	162	(18)	18		
	TOTAL ICT	1,353	-	-	-	1,353	1,118	(235)	235	-	-
	TOTAL Chief Executive	**5,439**	**482**	**-**	**-**	**5,921**	**4,354**	**(1,567)**	**1,567**	**-**	**-**
	Council Wide Capital Budgets										
105	CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	773				773	-	(773)	773		
106	UNALLOCATED	222		66		288	-	(288)	288		
		995	-	66	-	1,061	-	(1,061)	1,061	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL	**56,110**	**376**	**-**	**1,895**	**58,381**	**29,331**	**(29,050)**	**27,265**	**(1,768)**	**(17)**

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Bridgend County Borough Council

APPENDIX B

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT **QUARTER 1 to 30 JUNE 2025**

		Budget 25-26 (Council Feb 25) £'000	Brought Forward from 2024-25 £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Education, Early Years and Young People										
1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	3,300	92			(2,392)	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	39,410	111				39,521	16	39,521	-	-
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	13,215	175				13,390	17	13,390	-	-
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	15,056	99				15,155	20	15,155	-	-
5	BRIDGEND WEST	7,942	(1,893)	28,628		(19,701)	14,976	-	14,976	-	-
6	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	-	94				94	-	94	-	-
7	LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	2,028	(2)				2,026	-	2,026	-	-
8	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	-	61				61	-	61	-	-
9	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	-	51				51	-	51	-	-
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	-	56				56	-	56	-	-
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	-	276				276	3	276	-	-
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	-	26				26	(12)	26	-	-
13	EEYYP MINOR WORKS	-	567				567	93	567	-	-
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	-	50				50	-	50	-	-
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	-	333				333	-	333	-	-
16	PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	-	842	(226)	(616)		-	-	-	-	-
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	1,830	30		616		2,476	53	2,476	-	-
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE NEW CLASSROOMS	-	695				695	527	695	-	-
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS	-	66				66	(3)	66	-	-
20	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	-	3,061	1,089			4,150	129	4,150	-	-
21	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	-	550				550	-	550	-	-
22	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	-	550				550	-	550	-	-
23	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	-	575				575	87	575	-	-
24	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	-	953				953	57	953	-	-
25	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	-	672				672	38	672	-	-
26	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	-	436				436	-	436	-	-
27	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	-	181				181	56	181	-	-
28	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	-	504				504	4	504	-	-
29	FLYING START HIGHWAYS	-	36				36	-	36	-	-
	TOTAL Education, Early Years and Young People	**82,781**	**9,247**	**29,491**	**-**	**(22,093)**	**99,426**	**1,085**	**99,426**	**-**	**-**
	Social Services and Wellbeing										
30	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	-	40				40	-	40	-	-
31	TY CWM OGWR	-	23				23	-	23	-	-
32	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	-	242				242	52	242	-	-
33	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	-	10				10	-	10	-	-
34	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	-	18				18	4	18	-	-
35	COMMUNITY CENTRES	-	117				117	(15)	117	-	-
36	BRYNGARW HOUSE	-	8				8	-	8	-	-
37	ALL WALES PLAY OPPORTUNITIES	-		231		-	231	-	231	-	-
38	BRIDGEND LIFE CENTRE	-		272			272	-	272	-	
	TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	**-**	**458**	**503**	**-**	**-**	**961**	**41**	**961**	**-**	**-**

		Budget 25-26 (Council Feb 25) £'000	Brought Forward from 2024-25 £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Communities										
	Street Scene										
39	COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	2,000	361				2,361	1	2,361	-	
40	PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	1,000	54				1,054	9	1,054	-	
41	ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	-	11				11	-	11	-	
42	CITY DEAL	175					175	-	175	-	
43	COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	-	22				22	-	22	-	
44	REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	-	135				135	-	135	-	
45	CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	-	9	45			54	-	54	-	
46	20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	-		209			209	-	209	-	
47	ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	-	3				3	(6)	3	-	
48	HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	340	54				394	(20)	394	-	
49	CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250	52				302	26	302	-	
50	PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	-		50			50	-	50	-	
51	HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT	1,000	14				1,014	(58)	1,014	-	
52	REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	400	119				519	30	519	-	
53	RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	-	22				22	-	22	-	
54	COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	-	582				582	19	582	-	
55	ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	-	7	104			111	-	111	-	
56	FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	-	54				54	4	54	-	
57	NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	-	147				147	-	147	-	
58	PORTHCAWL METRO LINK (CCR)	-	19				19	(51)	19	-	
59	RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	-	109				109	-	109	-	
60	FLEET VEHICLES	-	771	1,200			1,971	190	1,971	-	
61	CEMETERIES	-	314				314	2	314	-	
62	S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	-	35				35	1	35	-	
63	ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	-	67				67	(9)	67	-	
64	COAL TIP SAFETY	-		1,795			1,795	(6)	1,795	-	
65	GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT	-	101				101	30	101	-	
66	WASTE VEHICLES	3,000					3,000	-	3,000	-	
67	HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE LGBI			2,908			2,908	-	2,908	-	
68	RESILIENT ROADS			494			494	-	494	-	
	TOTAL Streetscene	8,165	3,062	6,805	-	-	18,032	162	18,032	-	-
	Regeneration & Development										
69	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	-	436				436	-	436	-	
70	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	-	2,827				2,827	153	2,827	-	
71	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	-	315				315	27	315	-	
72	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	-	184				184	-	184	-	
73	EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,000	485				3,485	605	3,485	-	
74	CESP/ARBED PHASE 1	855	1,268				2,123	11	2,123	-	
75	BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	3,265					3,265	-	3,265	-	
76	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	-	61				61	(152)	61	-	
77	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	50	133				183	-	183	-	
78	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	-	89				89	-	89	-	
79	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT FUND	-	134				134	-	134	-	

		Budget 25-26 (Council Feb 25) £'000	Brought Forward from 2024-25 £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
80	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	-		650			650	18	650	-	
81	2030 DECARBONISATION	150	439				589	39	589	-	
82	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	-	929	2,148			3,077	513	3,077	-	
83	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	-		367			367	9	367	-	
84	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	17,518	989	3,867		(15,982)	6,392	81	6,392	-	
	TOTAL Regeneration & Development	24,838	8,289	7,032	-	(15,982)	24,177	1,304	24,177	-	-
	Corporate Landlord										
85	DDA WORKS	-	198				198	-	198	-	
86	MINOR WORKS	1,130	1,062				2,192	3	2,192	-	
87	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	-	107				107	17	107	-	
88	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	-	272				272	-	272	-	
89	WATERTON UPGRADE	3,591					3,591	-	3,591	-	
90	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	-	47				47	-	47	-	
	TOTAL Corporate Landlord	4,721	1,686	-	-	-	6,407	20	6,407	-	-
	TOTAL Communities	**37,724**	**13,037**	**13,837**	**-**	**(15,982)**	**48,616**	**1,486**	**48,616**	**-**	**-**
	Chief Executive										
91	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,750					1,750	217	1,750	-	
92	DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200					200	8	200	-	
93	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	100					100	1	100	-	
94	ENABLE GRANT	-		382			382	-	382	-	
95	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	-	530				530	-	530	-	
96	HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	480					480	-	480	-	
97	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	-	802				802	-	802	-	
98	ENFORCEMENT FUND 1			250			250	-	250	-	
99	ENFORCEMENT FUND 2			22			22	-	22	-	
	TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	2,530	1,332	654	-	-	4,516	226	4,516	-	-
100	ICT INFRA SUPPORT	400	52				452	24	452	-	
101	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	-	97				97	-	97	-	
102	CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	-	29				29	-	29	-	
103	ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	-	39				39	-	39	-	
104	HWB SCHOOLS IT	-	18				18	6	18	-	
	TOTAL ICT	400	235	-	-	-	635	30	635	-	-
	TOTAL Chief Executive	**2,930**	**1,567**	**654**	**-**	**-**	**5,151**	**256**	**5,151**	**-**	**-**
	Council Wide Capital Budgets										
105	CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	-	773				773	-	773	-	
106	UNALLOCATED	1,428	288				1,716	-	1,716	-	
		1,428	1,061	-	-	-	2,489	-	2,489	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL	**124,863**	**25,370**	**44,485**	**-**	**(38,075)**	**156,643**	**2,868**	**156,643**	**-**	**-**

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025-2035

APPENDIX C

		Date Approved	Total 2025-2035			2025-26						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
			Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council MTFS Feb 25 2025-26	Brought Forward from 2024-25	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slipped (to)/from Future Years	Revised 2025-26	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035	Total 2024 - 2035
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education, Early Years and Young People																					
1	Highways / Other Offsite Works Band B Schools	20/21	3,392	3,392	-	3,300	92			(2,392)	**1,000**	2,392									**3,392**
2	Heronsbridge Replacement	22/23	40,326	13,705	26,621	39,410	111				**39,521**	805									**40,326**
3	Mynydd Cynffig Replacement	22/23	13,680	5,575	8,105	13,215	175				**13,390**	290									**13,680**
4	Y G Bro Ogwr Replacement	22/23	15,497	3,406	12,091	15,056	99				**15,155**	342									**15,497**
5	Bridgend West	22/23	42,647	12,598	30,049	7,942	(1,893)	28,628		(19,701)	**14,976**	25,285	2,386								**42,647**
6	Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	21/22	94	94	-		94				**94**										**94**
7	Land Purchase Band B	21/22	2,026	2,026	-	2,028	(2)				**2,026**										**2,026**
8	Garw Valley South Primary Provision	14/15	61	61	-		61				**61**										**61**
9	Pencoed Primary School - Band A	14/15	51	51	-		51				**51**										**51**
10	Pencoed School Highways Works	16/17	56	56	-		56				**56**										**56**
11	Abercerdin Primary School Hub	21/22	276	276	-		276				**276**										**276**
12	Brynteg Comprehensive School All Weather Pitch	21/22	26	26	-		26				**26**										**26**
13	Schools Minor Works	RECURRENT	567	556	11		567				**567**										**567**
14	Schools Traffic Safety	16/17	50	50	-		50				**50**										**50**
15	School Modernisation	14/15	333	333	-		333				**333**										**333**
16	Pencoed Primary School - Classroom Extension	22/23	-	-	-		842	(226)	(616)		**-**										**-**
17	Coety Primary School - Extension	22/23	2,476	2,148	328	1,830	30		616		**2,476**										**2,476**
18	Bryntirion Comprehensive New Classrooms	22/23	695	171	524		695				**695**										**695**
19	Bryntirion Comprehensive School Highways	23/24	66	66	-		66				**66**										**66**
20	School's Capital Maintenance Grant	19/20	4,150	3,029	1,121		3,061	1,089			**4,150**										**4,150**
21	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Bridgend	19/20	550	-	550		550				**550**										**550**
22	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Porthcawl	19/20	550	-	550		550				**550**										**550**
23	Free School Meals	22/23	575	228	347		575				**575**										**575**
24	Community Focused Schools	22/23	953	953	-		953				**953**										**953**
25	ALN Capital Grant	22/23	672	672	-		672				**672**										**672**
26	Y G Bro Ogwr Mobile Classrooms	22/23	436	-	436		436				**436**										**436**
27	Porthcawl Welsh Medium Seedling School	22/23	181	181			181				**181**										**181**
28	Flying Start Extension - Nantymoel Primary	23/24	504		504		504				**504**										**504**
29	Flying Start Highways	24/25	36	22	14		36				**36**										**36**
Total Education, Early Years and Young People			**130,926**	**49,675**	**81,251**	**82,781**	**9,247**	**29,491**	**-**	**(22,093)**	**99,426**	**29,114**	**2,386**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**130,926**
Social Services and Well-being																					
Adult Social Care																					
30	Bryn Y Cae	19/20	40	40			40				**40**										**40**
31	Ty Cwm Ogwr Care Home	21/22	23	23			23				**23**										**23**
32	Wellbeing Minor Works	RECURRENT	242	242			242				**242**										**242**
33	Bakers Way	17/18	10	10	-		10				**10**										**10**
34	Children's Residential Accommodation Hub	18/19	18	18	-		18				**18**										**18**
Culture											-										
35	Community Centres	20/21	117	117			117				**117**										**117**
36	Bryngarw House	20/21	8	8			8				**8**										**8**
37	All Wales Play Opportunities	25/26	231		231			231			**231**										**231**
38	Bridgend Life Centre		272	32	240			272			**272**										**272**
Total Social Services and Well-being			**961**	**490**	**471**	**-**	**458**	**503**	**-**	**-**	**961**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**961**
Communities																					
Street Scene																					
39	Community Children's Play Areas	20/21	2,361	2,361	-	2,000	361				**2,361**										**2,361**
40	Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT	14/15	1,054	1,054	-	1,000	54				**1,054**										**1,054**
41	Aber Playing Fields	19/20	11	11	-		11				**11**										**11**
42	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	17/18	7,691	7,691	-	175					**175**	471	690	3,689	2,666						**7,691**
43	Coychurch Crem Works	RECURRENT	22	-	22		22				**22**										**22**
44	Remedial Measures - Car Parks	17/18	135	135	-		135				**135**										**135**
45	Civil Parking Enforcement	17/18	54	54	-		9	45			**54**										**54**
46	Road Signs 20mph Default Speed	22/23	209	-	209			209			**209**										**209**
47	Road Safety	14/15	3	3	-		3				**3**										**3**
48	Highways Structural Works	RECURRENT	3,454	3,454	-	340	54				**394**	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	**3,454**
49	Carriageway Capital Works	RECURRENT	2,552	2,552	-	250	52				**302**	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	**2,552**
50	Prow Capital Improvement Programme	15/16	116		116			50			**50**	66									**116**
51	Highways Refurbishment	19/20	1,014	1,014	-	1,000	14				**1,014**										**1,014**
52	Replacement of Street Lighting Columns/ River Bridge Protection Measures	RECURRENT	4,119	4,119	-	400	119				**519**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**4,119**
53	River Bridge Protection Measures	16/17	22	22	-		22				**22**										**22**
54	Communities Minor Works	RECURRENT	582	582	-		582				**582**										**582**
55	Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund 2	22/23	111	-	111		7	104			**111**										**111**
56	Fleet Transition Ultra Low Emmissions Vehicles	21/22	54	-	54		54				**54**										**54**
57	Net Zero Carbon Fleet	21/22	147	147	-		147				**147**										**147**
58	Porthcawl Metro-Link (CCR)	21/22	19	19			19				**19**										**19**
59	Residents Parking Bridgend Town Centre	14/15	109	109	-		109				**109**										**109**
60	Fleet Vehicles	14/15	1,971	1,971	-		771	1,200			**1,971**										**1,971**
61	Cemeteries	18/19	314	314	-		314				**314**										**314**
62	S106 Highways Small Schemes	14/15	35	-	35		35				**35**										**35**
63	Unadopted Roads	14/15	67	67	-		67				**67**										**67**
64	Coal Tip Safety	23/24	1,795		1,795			1,795			**1,795**										**1,795**
65	Grass Cutting Equipment	24/25	101	101			101				**101**										**101**

		Date Approved	Total 2025-2035			2025-26						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
			Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council MTFS Feb 25 2025-26	Brought Forward from 2024-25	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slipped (to)/from Future Years	Revised 2025-26	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035	Total 2024 - 2035
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
66	Waste Vehicles	24/25	8,000	8,000		3,000					**3,000**	3,000	2,000								**8,000**
67	Highways Maintenance LGBI	25/26	4,847	4,847				2,908			**2,908**	1,939									**4,847**
68	Resilient Roads	25/26	494		494			494			**494**										**494**
Regeneration & Development																					
69	Special Regeneration Funding	17/18	436	436			436				**436**										**436**
70	Porthcawl Regeneration	20/21	2,827	2,827	-		2,827				**2,827**										**2,827**
71	Economic Stimulus Grant	19/20	315	315	-		315				**315**										**315**
72	Coastal Risk Management Programme	20/21	184	184	-		184				**184**										**184**
73	Ewenny Road Industrial Estate	21/22	3,485	-	3,485	3,000	485				**3,485**										**3,485**
74	CESP/Arbed Phase 1	21/22	2,123	855	1,268	855	1,268				**2,123**										**2,123**
75	Bridgend Heat Scheme	16/17	3,265	2,276	989	3,265					**3,265**										**3,265**
76	Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub	17/18	61	38	23		61				**61**										**61**
77	Town & Community Council Fund	RECURRENT	633	633	-	50	133				**183**	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	**633**
78	Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative	14/15	89	89	-		89				**89**										**89**
79	Commercial Property Enhancement Fund	21/22	134	134			134				**134**										**134**
80	Urban Centre Property Enhancement	19/20	1,300		1,300			650			**650**	650									**1,300**
81	2030 Decarbonisation	RECURRENT	1,339	1,339		150	439				**589**	150	150	150	150	150					**1,339**
82	Shared Prosperity Fund	22/23	3,077	929	2,148		929	2,148			**3,077**										**3,077**
83	Local Places for Nature	23/24	734		734			367			**367**	367									**734**
84	Porthcawl Grand Pavilion	22/23	22,374	5,867	16,507	17,518	989	3,867		(15,982)	**6,392**	14,782	1,200								**22,374**
Corporate Landlord																					
85	DDA Works	14/15	198	198	-		198				**198**										**198**
86	Minor Works Asset Management	RECURRENT	12,362	12,362	-	1,130	1,062				**2,192**	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	**12,362**
87	Fire Precautions	14/15	107	107	-		107				**107**										**107**
88	Bryncethin Depot Facilities	14/15	272	272	-		272				**272**										**272**
89	Waterton Upgrade	18/19	3,591	3,591	-	3,591					**3,591**										**3,591**
90	Investing in Communities	19/20	47	47	-		47				**47**										**47**
Total Communities			**100,416**	**71,126**	**29,290**	**37,724**	**13,037**	**13,837**	**-**	**(15,982)**	**48,616**	**23,595**	**6,210**	**6,009**	**4,986**	**2,320**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**100,416**
Chief Executive's																					
Housing / Homelessness																					
91	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)	RECURRENT	22,000	22,000	-	1,750					**1,750**	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	**22,000**
92	Discretionary Housing Grants	RECURRENT	2,000	2,000		200					**200**	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	**2,000**
93	Housing Renewal / Empty Properties	RECURRENT	1,000	1,000	-	100					**100**	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**1,000**
94	Enable Grant	25/26	382	-	382			382			**382**										**382**
95	Homelessness and Housing	22/23	530		530		530				**530**										**530**
96	Health and Wellbeing Village	21/22	480	-	480	480					**480**										**480**
97	Affordable Housing	23/24	802	530	272		802				**802**										**802**
98	Enforcement Fund 1	25/26	250	250				250			**250**										**250**
99	Enforcement Fund 2	25/26	22	22				22			**22**										**22**
ICT																					
100	Investment in ICT	RECURRENT	4,052	4,052	-	400	52				**452**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**4,052**
101	Digital Transformation	22/23	97	97	-		97				**97**										**97**
102	Replacement CCTV	21/22	29	29	-		29				**29**										**29**
103	ICT Datacentre Replacement	22/23	39	39			39				**39**										**39**
104	HWB Schools IT	21/22	18	18	-		18				**18**										**18**
Total Chief Executive's			**31,701**	**30,037**	**1,664**	**2,930**	**1,567**	**654**	**-**	**-**	**5,151**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**2,950**	**31,701**
Council Wide Capital Budgets																					
105	Corporate Capital Fund	RECURRENT	773	773			773				**773**										**773**
106	Unallocated	RECURRENT	28,356	28,356	-	1,428	288				**1,716**	1,428	1,428	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,462	3,462	3,462	3,462	**28,356**
Total Council Wide Capital budgets			**29,129**	**29,129**	**-**	**1,428**	**1,061**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,489**	**1,428**	**1,428**	**3,312**	**3,312**	**3,312**	**3,462**	**3,462**	**3,462**	**3,462**	**25,667**
Total Expenditure			**293,133**	**180,457**	**112,676**	**124,863**	**25,370**	**44,485**	**-**	**(38,075)**	**156,643**	**57,087**	**12,974**	**12,271**	**11,248**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**293,133**
Expected Capital Resources																					
General Capital Funding																					
General Capital Funding - General Capital Grant			47,720	47,720	-	4,772					**4,772**	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	**47,720**
General Capital Funding - Supported Borrowing			38,100	38,100	-	3,810					**3,810**	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	**38,100**
Capital Receipts			28,821	28,821	-	14,239	9,659	3,867		(3,867)	**23,898**	4,388		535							**28,821**
Earmarked Reserves			35,273	35,273	-	20,667	7,580	45		(1,592)	**26,700**	863	1,890	3,154	2,666						**35,273**
Revenue Contribution			307	307	-	1	274	32			**307**										**307**
Prudential Borrowing (Directorate Funded)			3,956	3,956	-	1,822	934	1,200			**3,956**										**3,956**
Prudential Borrowing (Corporately Funded)			21,161	21,161	-	11,714	14			(2,300)	**9,428**	10,987	746								**21,161**
Local Govt Borrowing Initiative (Highways Infrastructure)			4,847	4,847	-			2,908			**2,908**	1,939									**4,847**
Empty Property Enforcement Loan (RCT)			272	272				272			**272**										**272**
SALIX Interest Free Loan - WG			-	-							**-**										**-**
Sub-Total General Capital Funding			**180,457**	**180,457**	**-**	**57,025**	**18,461**	**8,324**	**-**	**(7,759)**	**76,051**	**26,759**	**11,218**	**12,271**	**11,248**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**180,457**
External Funding Approvals																					
WG - Other			8,277	-	8,277		2,205	4,989			**7,194**	1,083									**8,277**
WG - 21st Century Schools			74,346	-	74,346	45,033		28,628		(19,701)	**53,960**	18,630	1,756								**74,346**
WG - Enable Grant			382	-	382			382			**382**										**382**
WG - Integrated Care Fund (ICF)			480	-	480	480					**480**										**480**
WG - Welsh Medium Capital Grant			1,536	-	1,536		1,536				**1,536**										**1,536**
Loan (RCT)			-	-	-						**-**										**-**
Westminster			19,577	-	19,577	16,440	989	2,148		(10,615)	**8,962**	10,615									**19,577**

	Date Approved	Total 2025-2035			2025-26						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
		Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council MTFS Feb 25 2025-26	Brought Forward from 2024-25	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slipped (to)/from Future Years	Revised 2025-26	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035	Total 2024 - 2035
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (HCF)		-	-	-						-										-
S106		4,241	-	4,241	2,818	1,649	(226)			4,241										4,241
Cardiff Capital Region (CCR)		3,485	-	3,485	3,000	485				3,485										3,485
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)		23	-	23		23				23										23
Sport Wales		240		240			240			240										240
EU		-	-	-						-										-
Other		89	-	89	67	22				89										89
Sub-Total External Funding Approvals		**112,676**	**-**	**112,676**	**67,838**	**6,909**	**36,161**	**-**	**(30,316)**	**80,592**	**30,328**	**1,756**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**112,676**
Total Funding Available		**293,133**	**180,457**	**112,676**	**124,863**	**25,370**	**44,485**	**-**	**(38,075)**	**156,643**	**57,087**	**12,974**	**12,271**	**11,248**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**8,582**	**293,133**
Funding Shortfall/(Surplus)		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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APPENDIX D

PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2024-25 and 2025-26

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Table 1 shows the 2024-25 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 26 February 2025 and the projected capital expenditure for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2024-25 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding for 2025-26.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Council Fund services	29.331	124.863	156.643
Right of Use Assets	3.837	3.149	3.464
TOTAL	**33.168**	**128.012**	**160.107**

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (the 'net financing requirement' - borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
External sources	20.706	72.610	85.364
Own resources	2.858	38.717	54.715
Net Financing Requirement	9.604	16.685	20.028
TOTAL	**33.168**	**128.012**	**160.107**

The net financing requirement is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	1.200	1.149	1.198
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)	1.870	2.243	2.127
Total MRP & VRP	**3.070**	**3.392**	**3.325**
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	1.159	1.232	1.293
Total Own Resources	**4.229**	**4.624**	**4.618**

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's actual CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure during the year:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate – Capital Strategy £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	162.745	166.329	165.442
Opening PFI CFR	12.974	14.975	15.652
Total opening CFR	**175.719**	**181.304**	**181.094**
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	(0.981)	13.954	17.049
Movement in PFI and other long term leases CFR	6.356	(1.232)	(1.293)
Total movement in CFR	**5.375**	**12.722**	**15.756**
Closing CFR	**181.094**	**194.026**	**196.850**
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	9.604	17.346	20.374
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(3.070)	(3.392)	(3.325)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(1.159)	(1.232)	(1.293)
Total movement	**5.375**	**12.722**	**15.756**

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2024-25 Actual £m	**2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m**	**2025-26 Projection £m**
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	**119.412**	**103.428**	**109.044**
Capital Financing Requirement	**181.094**	**194.026**	**196.850**

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2024-25 Actual £m	**2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m**	**2025-26 Projection £m**
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	25.000	25.000	25.000
Authorised Limit Total	**195.000**	**195.000**	**195.000**
Operational boundary – borrowing	120.000	140.000	140.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	20.000	20.000	20.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	**140.000**	**160.000**	**160.000**
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	**119.460**	**103.428**	**109.044**

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	5.142	5.065	5.065
Other Financing costs	0.945	0.869	0.869
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	**6.087**	**5.934**	**5.934**
Proportion of net revenue stream	1.94%	1.55%	1.55%

This shows that in 2025-26, it is forecast that 1.55% of the Council's net revenue income will be spent on paying back the costs of capital expenditure.

The net revenue stream is calculated as the income from Welsh Government Revenue Settlement Grant plus Council Tax and NNDR, less Police and Community Council precepts.

The table below shows the Prudential Indicator of estimates of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Net Revenue Budget	361.283	383.226	386.651
Income from Commercial Investments	0.459	0.459	0.459
% Ratio	0.13%	0.12%	0.12%

The income receivable from the commercial property portfolio is not deemed to be a financial resilience risk in terms of being 'disproportionate' to the Council's overall income.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**BUDGET MONITORING 2025-26 – QUARTER 1 REVENUE FORECAST**
Report Owner/ Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**JOANNE NORMAN GROUP MANAGER – BUDGET MANAGEMENT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules; Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.**
Executive Summary:	• **The net revenue budget for 2025-26 is £383.226 million. The overall projected position at 30th June 2025 is a net over spend of £898,000.** • **The projected over spend is primarily due to ongoing pressures within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, and the Chief Executive's Directorate.** • **Two significant grants have not yet been confirmed for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and therefore have not been built into the quarter 1 projections – Social Care Workforce grant and Eliminating Profit (£2.006 million and £1.539 million received respectively in 2024-25).** • **The budget approved for 2025-26 included budget reduction proposals totalling £8.379 million. The current position is a projected shortfall on the savings target of £907,000, or 10.82% of the overall reduction target.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30th June 2025.

2. Background

2.1 On 26th February 2025, Council approved a net revenue budget of £383.338 million for 2025-26 based on the provisional local government settlement announced by Welsh Government on 11th December 2024. The Welsh Government announced its final settlement on the 20th February 2025. The Final Local Government Settlement for Bridgend was £112,234 less than provided in the Provisional Settlement mainly due to data changes in the Non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) element of Welsh Government's funding formula. This decreased the net revenue budget for 2025-26 to £383.226 million. The updated revenue budget was outlined in a report to Council on 12th March, where it was also confirmed that no changes were made to the levels of council tax, or budget pressures and reductions approved by Council on 26th February 2025.

2.2 As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Summary financial position at 30th June 2025

3.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2025-26 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30th June 2025

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2025-26 £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000	Projected Outturn Q1 2025-26 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2025-26 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 1 2024-25 £'000
Directorate					
Education, Early Years and Young People	154,862	155,153	154,581	(572)	1,961
Social Services and Wellbeing	115,909	117,639	118,265	626	6,080
Communities	33,754	33,862	33,677	(185)	750
Chief Executive's	24,815	24,838	25,696	858	2,350
Total Directorate Budgets	**329,340**	**331,492**	**332,219**	**727**	**11,141**
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	5,958	5,907	5,820	(87)	(1,604)
Levies	10,209	10,209	10,209	0	(80)
Apprenticeship Levy	750	750	842	92	90
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	17,054	17,054	17,275	221	861
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,363	0	(146)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	670	0	0
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Council Wide Budgets	17,452	15,351	15,296	(55)	(1,050)
Total Council Wide Budgets	**53,886**	**51,734**	**51,905**	**171**	**(1,929)**
Total	**383,226**	**383,226**	**384,124**	**898**	**9,212**

3.1.2 The overall projected position at 30th June 2025 is a net over spend of £898,000 comprising £727,000 net over spend on directorates and a net over spend of £171,000 on Council wide budgets. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 3.3.

3.1.3 The main financial pressures are currently in the Social Services and Wellbeing (SSWB) and Chief Executive's Directorate.

3.1.4 For the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate (SSWB), there are two significant grants that have not yet been confirmed and therefore have not been built into the quarter 1 projections – Social Care Workforce grant and Eliminating Profit (£2.006 million and £1.539 million received respectively in 2024-25). Updates will be provided in the quarter 2 monitoring report where projections should improve once we have notification of these grants.

3.1.5 Council approved budget pressures of £8.800 million for the SSWB Directorate in February 2025 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.1.6 As noted in the revenue outturn report, reported to Cabinet in June 2025, there continues to be pressures in learning disabilities and physical disability/sensory impairment services driven by the complexity of need and demand across these services. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address these pressures.

3.1.7 The projected net over spend for the Chief Executive's directorate is mainly due to delays in implementing Medium Term Financial Strategy budget reduction proposals. There is a projected shortfall of £220,000 on prior year budget reductions along with an £82,000 shortfall on current year budget reduction proposals. The Directorate is also projecting shortfalls against core income budgets.

3.1.8 It is too early in the financial year to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax income for this financial year, and whether the Council is likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2025-26 financial year as more people have suffered financial hardship due to the cost of living crisis, or whether additional income will be collected from council tax premiums on empty properties and second homes. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. Council tax collection rates will be monitored continuously throughout the year and reported accordingly.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

3.1.9 There have been a number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved by Council in February 2025. The budget position is reported on the assumption that these virements will be approved.

3.1.10 The main virements and technical adjustments are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of part of budget pressure approved by Council in February 2022 (CEX 2 – Phase 2 Business Support Review) from Chief Executive Directorate to Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate to reflect line management responsibilities	£100,905
Transfer of funding from the Capital Financing budget to Directorate budgets in relation to the change in Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as approved by Council on 23 October 2024	£50,904

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of National Insurance (NI) uplifts to Homes for Older People budgets from funding held centrally for NI increases for commissioned services..	£985,022
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas (detailed in paragraph 3.1.11).	£892,151
Transfer of funding from the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate to Schools Delegated Budgets in relation to the establishment of a Primary School Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) base.	£219,420
Transfer of Real Living Wage (RLW) uplifts to Directorate budgets and schools following the change in Council pay scales in April 2025 to reflect the RLW increase.	£166,271
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Soulbury pay award that was confirmed September 2024 (full year effect adjustment in 2025-26).	£23,410
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of the financial implications of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report	£69,938

Pay/Price Inflation

3.1.11 When the budget was set, very little funding was allocated to directorates for pay and price inflation, as most had not been determined for the forthcoming year. The majority of the provision has been retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information is known about specific contractual price increases. Amounts released during quarter 1 are shown in 3.1.10 and include £0.366 million energy uplift for leisure services buildings and £0.373 million increase to Homes for Older People budgets in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase.

3.1.12 There are ongoing discussions regarding pay claims for Teachers' pay from September 2025 onwards and National Joint Council (NJC) workers for 2025-26. The total salary bill for the Council is around £230 million so every 1% average increase in pay costs the Council an additional £2.3 million.

3.1.13 Members may recall from the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2029 that the UK government increased the rate of employers' national insurance contributions from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025 and reduced the threshold on which this would apply to workers' earnings, from £9,100 to £5,000. Welsh Government stated in their Draft Budget that the UK Government has confirmed that devolved governments would be provided with additional funding to cover these costs for Council workers only and not those in commissioned services. In May 2025 Welsh Government announced that they would be providing additional funding on top of that received from UK government, but it would still only cover about 85% of increased costs for Welsh public services. We are still awaiting confirmation of the funding, but anticipate this will be known shortly. An update on the level of funding received will be reported in the quarter 2 revenue monitoring report. Future monitoring reports will also report on the sufficiency of the provision set aside in the 2025-26 budget to meet the costs of National Insurance increases for commissioned providers.

3.1.14 Inflation rates have increased from 2.8% when the budget was set up to 3.4% in May 2025. There is a risk that there may not be sufficient funding available within these budgets for any unexpected major pay/price inflation increases. With this uncertainty the budget will need to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year.

Budget Reduction Proposals

3.1.15 The net budget for the financial year has been set assuming full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £8.379 million. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as holding additional vacancies, or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.

3.1.16 In February 2025 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025-26 to 2028-29. This identified the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals, based on the most likely scenario, amounting to £39.516 million over the next four years. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

3.1.17 At year end consideration will be given to any budget over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. Similarly, consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2025-26. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFS, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

3.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

3.2.1 The Revenue Budget Outturn report was presented to Cabinet on 24th June 2025. In the report it was highlighted that there were £415,000 of prior year budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £290,000. In addition, of the 2024-25 budget reduction proposals of £13.045 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £1.569 million. Directors have been asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2025-26 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve them. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 2.

Table 2 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education, Early Years and Young People	291	177	114
Social Services and Wellbeing	501	501	0
Communities	464	362	102
Chief Executives	1,567	1,347	220
TOTAL	**2,823**	**2,387**	**436**

Note: The total budget reductions required in Table 2 represents the full original budget reduction targets.

3.2.2 Table 2 shows that of the £2.823 million outstanding reductions, £2.387 million is likely to be achieved in 2025-26 leaving a shortfall of £436,000. Proposals still not likely to be achieved include:

- EDFS19 – Communication and Relationships Team (£114,000 shortfall). A review of the CART service is due to take place with schools during July 2025 and outcomes from this will also be considered as part of the future plans for the service.
- COM 2 2021-22 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle (£45,000 shortfall). The new site in Pyle opened in quarter 4 of 2023-24. Once the exit terms of the lease in Tythegston have been finalised the full saving will be made.
- COM2 2023-24 – Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking (£40,000 shortfall). A staff member commenced work on this proposal in 2024-25 and it is currently at consultation stage. It requires a full order making process which is typically 6-9 months.

- CEX22 – Review of ICT Services (£87,000 shortfall). Saving was not met in full due to the timing of the re-procurement exercise on telephony budgets across the Council.
- CEX25 – Staff savings from Finance senior management team – (£70,000 shortfall). Shortfall in savings target due to failure to implement the proposed Finance Senior Management restructure. The service is now considering alternative budget saving proposals.

3.2.3 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that *"Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays".* An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve is in place to offset shortfalls on specific budget reduction proposals on a one-off basis where circumstances to achieving them are outside of the directorate's control. During the financial year, the Section 151 Officer will consider applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

Budget Reductions 2025-26

3.2.4 The budget approved for 2025-26 included budget reduction proposals totalling £8.379 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 3 below. The current position is that £5.104 million has been achieved to date with an additional £2.368 million to be achieved by year end, leading to an overall projected shortfall on the savings target by year end of £907,000, or 10.82% of the overall reduction target.

Table 3 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2025-26

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved to date	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education, Early Years and Young People	1,428	263	981	447
Schools	1,186	1,186	1,186	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	1,817	355	1,617	200
Communities	717	401	539	178
Chief Executive's	688	376	606	82
Corporate/Council Wide	2,543	2,543	2,543	0
TOTAL	**8,379**	**5,104**	**7,472**	**907**

3.2.5 The most significant budget reduction proposals unlikely to be achieved in full are (> £100,000 shortfall):-

- EEYYP5 – Reduction in Strategy, Performance and Support Group (£110,000 shortfall). The outcome of the consultation process is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26. Saving will be made in full in 2026-27.

- SCH1 – Efficiency saving against School Delegated Budgets – 1% in 2025-26 (£1.186 million). Whilst the saving is referenced as having been achieved due to the overall reduction in the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), a referenced in 3.3.1, the reduced budgets have resulted in total projected deficit balances for schools at year end of £5.206 million. Officers are working with schools to bring this overall deficit down.
- SSW8 – Reduction in provision of number of Supported Living Accommodation units (£190,000 shortfall). The service area is actively seeking means to achieve this budget reduction proposal. Updates will be provided in future revenue monitoring reports. .

3.2.6 **Appendix 2** identifies the projected amount of saving against these proposals in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall. Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast outturn for the year. During the financial year the Section 151 Officer will also consider applications from directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

3.2.7 In the longer term, these proposals must be realised or must be met through alternative budget reduction proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

3.3 Commentary on the financial position at 30th June 2025

Financial position at 30th June 2025

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached in **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

3.3.1 **Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate**

The net budget for the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate, including school delegated budgets, for 2025-26 is £155.153 million. Current projections indicate an under spend of £572,000 at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Inclusion Group	8,754	8,409	(345)	-3.9%
EEYYP Support Unit (EDSU)	527	687	159	30.3%
Home to School Transport	10,743	10,844	101	0.9%
Catering Services	1,750	1,231	(518)	-29.6%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2025-26 is £123.501 million.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced as any under spend or over spend is automatically carried forward into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'. The Financial Scheme for Schools requires schools to obtain permission from both the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People and the Section 151 Officer to set a deficit budget. Schools with deficits of greater than £50,000 in a primary school or greater than £150,000 in a secondary or special school are requested to attend termly support and challenge meetings with senior Local Authority officers. In addition, any unplanned deficits that occur within the financial year due to unforeseen circumstances must be reported as soon as they become known to the school.

Total school balances decreased by £3.023 million during 2024-25 to a negative balance of £619,000 at the end of the financial year. At the start of 2025-26, projections indicated an overall deficit balance for school delegated budgets of £5.206 million at year end. There are 33 primary schools, 6 secondary schools and 2 special schools (69.5% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end.

Central Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate budgets

Inclusion Group

- There is a projected net under spend of £345,000 across Inclusion Group budgets.
- Council approved a £1.330 million budget pressure for 2025-26 to mitigate the increased demand for additional learning needs (ALN) support in schools experienced in 2024-25.
- There continues to be significant demand for ALN support at schools, however there is a small projected under spend of £78,000. The demand is high in particular for pupils requiring neurodevelopmental, behavioural, communication and complex medical support. The number of pupils supported in the spring term was 246, increasing to 266 in the summer term.
- The main reason for the remaining projected under spend is current staff vacancies held across Inclusion Group budgets (£222,000) with projections assuming posts will be filled from September 2025.

Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)

- There is a projected over spend of £159,000 on EDSU budgets. This primarily relates to delays in implementing MTFS proposals requiring restructures which will be finalised later in 2025-26 including EEYYP5 – Strategy, Performance and Support Group – shortfall of £72,000, EEYYP6 – Pupil Services – shortfall of £26,000 and EEYYP8 – Business Support – shortfall of £70,000.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- There is a projected over spend of £101,000 on the HtST budget at quarter 1.
- The revenue outturn report for 2024-25 highlighted a £80,000 under spend on the HtST budget. This was primarily as a result of one-off funding of £540,000 being allocated in quarter 4 from the Welsh Government cost pressures grant.

- Council approved a £539,00 budget pressure for 2025-26 as part of the MTFS to contribute to the underlying increased costs of the service.
- The budget will require close monitoring through the remainder of 2025-26, especially given the significant MTFS budget reduction proposal in this service area that is currently projected to be met in full – EEYYP 2 – review of HtST (£675,000).

Catering Services

- Catering Services is projecting an under spend of £518,000 compared with the under spend of £661,000 in 2024-25.
- The projected under spend continues to be based on the full implementation of the Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFMS) by Welsh Government and the accompanying grant funding to support the initiative.
- The provision of UPFSM in 2025-26 will continue to be monitored closely to determine whether the positive projections are sustainable and whether Catering Services can contribute to future MTFS budget reduction proposals for the EEYYP Directorate.
- The projected under spend is slightly lower than 2024-25 due to the delay in the implementation of MTFS budget reduction EEYYP1 – Cessation of the meals at home service which is currently reporting a shortfall of £42,000.

3.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The Directorate's net budget for 2025-26 is £117.639 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £626,000 at year end. There are, however, two significant grants that have not yet been confirmed and therefore have not been built into the quarter 1 projections – Social Care Workforce grant (£2.006 million received in 2024-25) and Eliminating Profit (£1.539 million received in 2024-25). Updates will be provided in the quarter 2 monitoring where projections should improve once we know these grant allocations.

Council approved budget pressures of £8.800 million for the SSWB Directorate in February 2025 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The funded pressures include £3.250 million to mitigate the ongoing pressures of Care Experienced Children and insufficient numbers of foster carers, £2.020 million for the implications of Real Living Wage (RLW) uplifts on commissioned contracts, £1.282 million for learning disabilities services, £679,000 for mental health services and £540,000 for Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment services.

As noted in the revenue outturn report, there continues to be pressures in learning disabilities and physical disability/sensory impairment services driven by the complexity of need and demand across these services. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address the pressure in the adult services budget, including accelerating the work to transform learning disabilities. Further actions have been developed into a 3 year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in BCBC that was approved by Cabinet on 19th November 2024. This plan sits alongside the 3 year strategic plan for children and family services which was approved by Cabinet in September 2023.

The most significant variances for the directorate are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Adult Social Care	78,051	77,527	(524)	-0.7%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,228	6,187	(41)	-0.7%
Childrens Social Care	33,360	34,551	1,191	3.6%

Adult Social Care

There is a projected net under spend of £524,000 on the Adult Social Care budget.

The most significant variances contributing to the under spend are:

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care	397
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	361
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Residential Care	106
Older People Direct Payments	(161)
Learning Disabilities Homecare	(195)
Mental Health Residential Care	(218)
Learning Disabilities Direct Payment	(241)
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	(242)
Homes for Older People	(441)

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care - there is a projected over spend of £397,000, which is based on the current demand for the service which is 101 packages of support. The overspend is mainly due to increased costs for existing placements, due to changing needs. Council approved £274,000 budget growth for this area for 2025-26. No grant has been confirmed for the service yet whereas last financial year £152,000 Social Care Workforce (SCW) grant was received.

- Learning Disabilities Residential Care – there is a projected over spend of £361,000 as there continues to be increased costs for existing placements within the residential and nursing service due to changing needs. Whilst a budget pressure of £438,000 was approved by Council for this service area, no grant funding has been confirmed for the service yet whereas in 2024-25 £599,000 Social Care Workforce (SCW) grant was allocated.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Residential Care – there is a projected over spend of £106,000 which is comparable to the £100,000 over spend in 2024-25. The projected over spend is due to higher placement numbers than budget

- Older People Direct Payments – there is a projected under spend of £161,000 across the Direct Payments budgets in this area compared to a £193,000 over spend in 2024-25. The projected under spend reflects the current demand level of 114 packages of support. This budget area received budget growth of £369,000 in 2025-26 to support the increased costs linked to increasing complexity of cases.

- Learning Disabilities Homecare – there is a projected under spend of £195,000 compared to an over spend of £172,000 in 2024-25. The service area has benefited from £325,000 budget growth in 2025-26. The budget will continue to be closely monitored as there is currently a projected over spend on internal homecare due to increases staffing costs due to having to cover staff sickness which is currently being offset by projected under spends in the external Homecare service.

- Mental Health Residential Care – there is a projected under spend of £218,000 compared to an under spend of £15,000 in 2024-25.This is due to a reduction in the number of placements which has decreased to 46 compared with 54 in 2024-25.

- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – there is a projected under spend of £241,000 across the Direct Payments budgets in this area compared to an under spend of £364,000 in 2024-25. This is based on the current demand for packages of support of 143.

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation – there is a projected under spend of £242,000 compared to an under spend of £193,000 in 2024-25. This is as a result of staffing vacancies with the service.

- Homes for Older People – there is a projected under spend of £441,000 compared to an over spend of £72,000 in 2024-25. This is primarily due to projected under spends on staffing within BCBC homes (£208,000).

Children's Social Care

There is a projected net over spend of £1.191 million on the Children's Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this over spend are:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Care Experienced Children	1,266
Commissioning & Social Work	115
Early Help & Edge of Care	(187)

- The over spend of £1.266 million for Care Experienced Children has reduced from the £3.699 million reported in the outturn report for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the £3.250 million budget pressure approved by Council for 2025-26. The underlying over spend is due to a combination of factors:-

    - The Independent Residential Care budget has a projected over spend of £946,000 (2024-25 - £3.326 million). This is based on 26 care experienced children currently in independent residential placements compared with 24 at the end of 2024-25. In addition, there continues to be insufficient foster carer placements to meet needs and children requiring specialist provision, sometimes with high staffing ratios to keep them safe and protected. It should be noted that this budget area can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in relatively high costs being incurred.

    - Children's Internal Residential Care has a projected net over spend of £324,000 compared to £220,000 in 2024-25. This is mainly due to increased usage of agency workers to address safeguarding issues which require additional staffing across the service.

    - Fostering - There is a projected under spend in this area of £584,000. This is primarily due to a projected under spend of £331,000 on the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) budget based on 37 placements. This is due to alternative, lower cost, placement options being fully utilised, including Special Guardianship Orders. It should be noted, however, that some of the children in costly independent residential provision would ideally be with foster carers who can manage complex needs. There is insufficient capacity in-house and in IFAs which means that some children's needs are being met in a higher, more expensive, tier of service.

    - Children's Supported Living – There is a projected over spend of £594,000 which is currently mitigated by the projected under spend in Fostering noted above. This is due to increases in the number of placements (21 in quarter 1 of 2024-25 compared to 27 in quarter 1 of 2025-26).

- Commissioning and Social Work – There is a projected over spend of £115,000 compared to an under spend of £855,000 in 2024-25. This is mainly due to projected over spends in care support and placements costs across the service area - the majority of which relate to Care Experienced Children/care support spend such as court ordered drug testing, assessments, reports, travel and therapy costs. The movement from the under spend reported in 2024-25 is due to the fact that in the last financial year the service area benefited from additional one-off grant funding (£355,000) and staff vacancies (£306,000). In addition, £300,000 of the overall MTFS vacancy factor budget reduction proposal (SSW10) for 2025-26 has also been allocated to this service area.

  Early Help & Edge of Care – There is a projected under spend of £188,000. This is due to a projected under spend of £47,000 on staffing and £141,000 on running costs across the service while a review of the service is progressed.

3.3.3 **Communities Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2025-26 is £33.862 million. The current projection is an anticipated under spend of £185,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Fleet Services	180	700	520	288.61%
Traffic & Transport	1,321	941	(380)	-28.77%
Corporate Landlord	3,550	3,301	(249)	-7.01%

Fleet Services

- There is a projected over spend of £520,000 on Fleet services which is a slight reduction from the £564,000 over spend in 2024-25. The fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorates, South Wales Police (SWP) and the general public's vehicles, generating income to support staffing and overhead costs. Productivity levels continue to be impacted by long term sickness and ongoing issues with recruitment and retention difficulties. A market supplement has been introduced in line with the corporate Market Supplement Policy following comparisons with neighbouring authorities and remuneration of HGV technicians, which has seen some limited success in filling vacancies. A report outlining options for service operating models to mitigate the budget position of fleet services has been delayed due to officer availability but is now proceeding and is anticipated in the latter half of the 2025-26 financial year.

Traffic and Transport

- There is a projected under spend of £380,000 across Traffic and Transport budgets. Whilst the service area has benefitted from an MTFS budget pressure of £360,000 approved by Council for 2025-26 towards the shortfall in car park income and the staff car pass scheme which has been impacted by hybrid working, the Council continues to benefit from the temporary income raised from the Salt Lake Car Park in Porthcawl.

Corporate Landlord

- There is a projected under spend of £249,000 against Corporate Landlord. This is primarily due to staff vacancies as the service continues to experience recruitment difficulties. It is comparable with the under spend on staffing budgets in 2024-25 of £230,000.

3.3.4 **Chief Executive's**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2025-26 is £24.838 million. Current projections anticipate an over spend against this budget of £858,000. The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget £'000	Projected outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
ICT	4,180	4,445	265	6.3%
Partnerships	2,208	2,447	239	10.8%
Housing & Homelessness	4,801	4,723	(78)	-1.6%
Finance	4,207	4,506	299	7.1%

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £265,000 across ICT budgets compared to an over spend of £712,000 in 2024-25. As noted in the outturn report, budget virements will be actioned in 2025-26 to re-align service department telephony budgets back to ICT to recognise the savings made from the re-procurement exercise undertaken, and also to re-align print budgets to reflect reduced print costs due to hybrid working. These have improved the projections for the ICT service. In addition, Council approved a budget pressure for 2025-26 of £218,000 towards ICT licensing and support costs.
- The remaining projected over spend is mainly due to MTFS saving proposals from 2024-25 and 2025-26 not being fully achieved. There is a shortfall of £87,000 against the 2024-25 MTFS budget reduction proposal CEX 22 – Review of ICT services and a shortfall of £78,000 against the 2025-26 MTFS budget reduction proposal CEX 10 – Restructure the ICT service pending a restructure of the service.
- The balance of the projected over spend is primarily due to historic SLA income from schools no longer being realised as the Welsh Government School Hwb project now includes the services previously being re-charged.

Partnerships

- There is a net projected over spend of £239,000 across the Partnerships budgets which is comparable to the 2024-25 outturn position.
- There is a projected over spend against the CCTV budget of £91,000 – which is mainly due to a reduction in projected income as a result of the contract with the Vale of Glamorgan ending (£71,000). The remainder is due to increased projected salary costs for night time and shift allowances (£35,000).
- There is a projected over spend in Communications and Marketing of £50,000 which is as a result of the department restructure having been placed on-hold. This is being progressed in 2025-26.
- There is a projected over spend against Pest Control services of £34,000 – this is due to the shortfall in the 2024-25 MTFS budget reduction proposal, CEX 8 - Charging for PEST control services. There continues to be a projected reduced uptake in the service resulting in a projected income shortfall for 2025-26.

Housing & Homelessness

- There is a projected net under spend of £78,000 on Housing & Homelessness compared to an over spend of £274,000 in 2024-25.
- The overall budget for housing and homelessness has been increased by £400,000 in 2025-26 due to Council approving a MTFS budget pressure to support pressures on the homelessness budget. In addition there has also been an increase of £970,000 due to transfers from Welsh Government into the settlement from previous grant funding.
- Projected spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2025-26 is £4.400 million. As well as the core budget (£3.274 million) the service has also seen an increase in rental income relating to Housing Benefits claimed by tenants who have been supported with homelessness accommodation (£460,000). The net impact is a projected over spend on accommodation of £666,000.
- This has been offset by projected under spends on the Brynmenyn Homeless Centre (£162,000) and the three new HMO properties acquired in 2024-25 (£165,000) due to projected increases in Housing Benefit income. Further projected under spends include maximisation of Supporting People grant (£115,000) and grant funding received for Asylum Seeker Dispersal (£99,000).

Finance

- There is a projected over spend of £299,000 on Finance budgets. This primarily relates to failure to implement historic MTFS proposals requiring restructures (the service is now considering alternative budget saving proposals) and delays to in-year restructures which will be finalised later in 2025-26 (CEX25 (2024-25) – Staff savings from Finance senior management team - shortfall of £70,000 and CEX5 – review support capacity across finance – shortfall of £23,000). The balance is mainly due to a shortfall against the historic vacancy management factor target of £144,230 across Finance budgets.

3.3.5 **Council Wide budgets**

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The net budget for 2025-26 is £51.734 million. Current projections anticipate an over spend against this budget of £171,000. The main variance is:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	17,054	17,275	221	1.30%

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is currently a projected over spend of £221,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict. The projected take-up for 2025-26 is higher than in 2024-25 when the gross spend in this budget area was £16.326 million. This is partly due to the increase in council tax in 2025-26 of 4.5%, plus work undertaken by the Benefits Team to ensure citizens are aware of and claiming the benefits they are entitled to. The budget will

be closely monitored in 2025-26 as there could be additional calls on the scheme with the ongoing cost of living crisis with the potential for an increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Other Council wide budgets

- As referred to in paragraph 3.1.12, 3.1.13 and 3.1.14, due to the ongoing discussions regarding pay claims, funding of the increases to the rate of employers' national insurance contributions and the risk on price inflation increases, at this point in the financial year, it is prudent to assume that the majority of Other Council wide budgets will be fully spent by the year end. Close monitoring of these budgets will be required for the remainder of 2025-26 with further updates provided in future revenue monitoring reports.

3.3.6 **Earmarked Reserves**

Earmarked reserves will continue to be thoroughly reviewed by Corporate Management Board during 2025-26, including assessments of the draw down profile and re-profiling of existing earmarked reserves. Where earmarked reserves are identified to be unwound, these will be used to fund emerging risks for the Council as a whole during 2025-26. Further detail will be provided on the outcome of CMB reviews in future revenue monitoring reports.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the projected revenue position for 2025-26

Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2025-26

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original Reduction and RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved in 2025-26 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2025-26 to achieve

RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved **at all** in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

EDFS9 (2024-25)	Cessation of Adult Community Learning (ACL) provision	149	149	The outcome of the consultation process for the cessation of the ACL service was finalised in quarter 3 of 2024-25.	None required - saving will be made in full in 2025-26
EDFS19	Communication and Relationships Team - Referrals only accepted for pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusion and placement breaking down. No longer completing observations for the ND Pathway	142	28	Saving not met in 2024-25 due to the overall increase in pupils needing the service	A review of CART service provision is due to take place with schools during July 2025 and outcomes from this will also be considered as part of the future plans for the service. Further updates will be provided in future revenue monitoring reports.
	Total Education, Early Years and Young People	**291**	**177**		

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

SSW7 (2024-25)	Review opportunities to amend the current energy payment arrangements for the leisure contract	45	45	On 22 October 2024, Cabinet approved modification of the existing contractual terms to vary the expiry date from 31 March 2027 to 31 March 2032. Work is ongoing to enter into a variation agreement.	None required - alternative saving identified and has been achieved in 2025-26
SSW13 (2024-25)	Council to reduce its investment into cultural services including the availability of buildings, services or resources relating to its libraries, supported employment, community venues and arts programmes	360	360	Cabinet report in May 2024 approved reductions of £65K, along with public engagement over how future savings can be achieved. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet to enable the outcome of consultation exercises to be taken into account when finalising any proposed changes.	The saving of the remaining £295,000 will be covered by maximising grant funding opportunities in 2025-26. However a long term plan to achieve the additional £295,000 needs to be explored. We are commencing public engagement at present with a view of what does long term sustainable cultural services look like.
SSW17 (2024-25	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - bereavement services	5	5	Notice was served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.	None required - saving will be made in full in 2025-26
SSW18 (2024-25)	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - dementia services	57	57	Notice was served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.	None required - saving will be made in full in 2025-26
SSW22 (2024-25)	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - substance misuse services	34	34	Notice was served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.	None required - saving will be made in full in 2025-26
	Total Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate	**501**	**501**		

COMMUNITIES

COM2 (2021-22)	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site	60	15	The new site opened during quarter 4 of 2023-24. The timing of the opening meant that exit terms of the lease were being finalised in 2024-25. Once these have been finalised, the full saving will be made.	Once the exit terms have been finalised, the full saving will be made. The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM4 (2022-23)	Remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend	20	20	Review of Business in Focus operating model explored to identify operating efficiencies with a view to restructuring the management agreement with Business in Focus to deliver this saving.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26
COM5 (2022-23)	Commercially let a wing of Ravens court to a partner organisation or business	50	50	Building was not commercially let during 2024-25. Sale of the freehold took place in the final quarter of 2024-25.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26
COM2 (2023-24)	Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking	40	0	The traffic management team were engaged in the introduction of the default national speed limit in built up areas in 2023-24. A staff member commenced work on this proposal in 2024-25 and it is currently at initial consultation stage. It requires a full order making process which is typically 6-9 months.	Shortfalls against this savings target will be met through one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM3 (2023-24)	Commercially let two wings of Ravens court to a partner organisation or business	120	120	Building was not commercially let during 2024-25. Sale of the freehold took place in the final quarter of 2024-25.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26
COM1 (2024-25)	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	34	34	Achieved 58.8% of the proposed saving in 2024-25 - saving increased as year progressed.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original Reduction and RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved in 2025-26 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2025-26 to achieve
COM10 (2024-25)	Review of Porthcawl Marina berthing fees with a view to it operating on a full cost recovery basis	32	32	The service was subject to unforeseen maintenance costs for the harbour gate and infrastructure.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26
COM14 (2024-25)	Office Rationalisation to include closing Raven's Court and the Innovation Centre and sharing accommodation in Civic Offices with the MASH and SWP.	73	73	Raven's Court was not commercially let during 2024-25. Sharing of accommodation in Civic Offices did not take place until the final quarter of 2024-25.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26
COM28 (2024-25)	Letting of former Woodmat Property, Brynmenyn Estate	35	18	Opportunities were sought to achieve this budget reduction proposal, but let not agreed by end of 2024-25.	Corporate Landlord are currently finalising the terms to lease this unit, therefore part-year saving should be achieved.
	Total Communities Directorate	**464**	**362**		

Chief Executives

CEX8 (2024-25)	Charging the public for Pest Control Services	67	33	Due to reduced uptake of the service, the saving was only partly achieved in 2024-25.	Income levels will continue to be monitored closely with further updates provided to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports. If there continues to be a shortfall in income levels, Partnerships will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
CEX12 (2024-25)	Increased income from Registrars' Ceremonies	43	43	Due to reduced uptake of the service, the saving was only partly achieved in 2024-25.	Full saving is anticipated to be met in 2025-26 as early part of year has seen an increase in bookings.
CEX13 (2024-25)	Restructure of Legal Services	154	154	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to the timing of implementation of the Legal restructure	The restructure of Legal Services has been completed therefore the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.
CEX14 (2024-25)	Reconfiguration of Business Support	160	160	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to the timing of implementation of the Business Support restructure	The restructure of Business Support has been completed therefore the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.
CEX15 (2024-25)	Increase income generated from legal fees for property transactions, S106 Agreements and Highway Agreements	20	0	Legal Services are reliant on the instructions that come through from Directorates. Due to reduced uptake of the service, the saving was not achieved in 2024-25	Legal Services will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
CEX16 (2024-25)	Restructure of HR Service	289	289	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to the timing of implementation of the HR restructure	The restructure of HR has been completed therefore the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.
CEX17 (2024-25)	Household Canvas - Reduction / Limited Canvass Door Knocking	9	0	Saving not achieved due to increased costs associated with canvassing.	Elections will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
CEX19 (2024-25)	Restructure of Democratic Services	96	96	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to the timing of implementation of the Democratic Services restructure	The restructure of Democratic Services has been completed therefore the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.
CEX20 (2024-25)	Restructure of Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Team	45	45	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to the timing of implementation of the Corporate Policy and Public Affairs restructure	The restructure of Corporate Policy and Public Affairs has been completed therefore the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.
CEX22 (2024-25)	Review of ICT Services	398	311	Saving not met in full due to the timing of re-procurement exercise on telephony budgets across the Council	ICT Services will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
CEX23 (2024-25)	Review the provision of Partnerships and Customer Services	216	216	Saving partly achieved in 2024-25 due to delays in confirmation of alternative external funding towards 2 posts.	Confirmation of funding has been finalised, therefore full saving anticipated to be made in 2025-26.
CEX25 (2024-25)	Staff savings from Finance senior management team	70	0	Shortfall in savings target due to failure to implement proposed Finance senior management restructure.	Finance will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2025-26 to deliver a balanced budget position.
	Total Chief Executives Directorate	**1,567**	**1,347**		

	GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS	**2,823**	**2,387**		
	REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL		**436**		

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CENTRAL EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EEYYP1	Cessation of the Meals-at-Home Service	While there could be a significant redundancy cost, redeployment options could be explored to mitigate this risk. A public consultation would be required prior to determination by Cabinet.	56	0	14	The outcome of the consultation process for the cessation of the service is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26
EEYYP2	Review of Home to School Transport	While transport for Nursery children is non-statutory, if this were to be removed, there could be negative impact on pupils attending Welsh-medium and faith school nursery settings in particular although numbers are relatively low (<100). Home-to-school transport for Post-16 students is non-statutory. This could result in an increased number of young people not in education, employment or training. These cuts could impact on school attendance.	675	169	675	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
EEYYP3	Reduction in Counselling services	Should a decision be made to reduce counselling services this would have a negative impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. A reduction in this area would limit the access to support for children and young people.	50	50	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
EEYYP4	Reduction in Early Years and Childcare	Some functions would need to be removed from the team, for example, the ability to • quality assure childcare providers in the community (with associated safeguarding risks); • complete the statutory childcare sufficiency assessments and associated statutory work; and • support and develop childcare within the community.	90	0	23	The outcome of the consultation process for the Early Year service is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EEYYP5	Reduction in Strategy, Performance and Support Group	This proposed reduction relates to a number of posts in the Strategy, Performance and Support Group. The reduction will present a significant impact (and associated serious risk) in the implementation of the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate's main management information systems. This reduction will limit the way in which the directorate is able to record, manage and report on sensitive data relating to vulnerable children. This reduction would also impact on the local authority's ability to dispense its statutory home-to-school transport duties. This reduction will mean that our capacity to maintain procurement and contract procedure responsibilities will be diminished and that the School Transport Team's ability to respond to complaints and issues will be more limited.	146	0	37	The outcome of the consultation process is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26
EEYYP6	Reduction in Pupil Services	There would be a significant risk to the local authority being able to ensure school admission arrangements are in place and school places are offered in line with national legislation and local policy arrangements. The child employment function would likely need to cease, to compensate for the reduced capacity within the team. Furthermore, the team would not be able to have oversight and administer applications for discretionary transport which would likely leave the local authority open to legal challenge.	35	0	9	The outcome of the consultation process is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EEYYP7	Reduction in the Corporate Health and Safety Unit	The local authority has, within the last few years, provided significant additional revenue budget to expand the number of Health and Safety advisors to support the local authority in delivering its functions safely. The Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU) ensures that both staff and the public are kept safe where they are affected by the local authority's undertakings. •The team's ability to promote a positive health and safety culture would likely be compromised. •Significant reduction in proactive work and active monitoring, mentoring and coaching for the "responsible person" •Significant increased pressure on managers at all levels with more limited advice available and less time from the CHSU to support •Significant increased reactive work. •Inability to offer training without support from the private sector (at cost) •Potential increase in insurance cost, and the cost to services to address failings in general, or which has been identified by the HSE (for example, fees for intervention) •Increased in costs to cover work would normally be completed by the CHSU but will likely require contractors to provide •Potential serious failings under the current health and safety legislation, potentially leading to prosecution (corporate and personal liability for senior officers, in particular Corporate Management Board) •A poorer health and safety culture across the organisation in general •Poorer health and safety systems •Increase level of criticism from services users, members of public and elected members There are significant health and safety risks that the current team has limited capacity to address that could potentially mean regulatory interventions by the HSE. There have been several HSE interventions within the last two years. A reduction in the human resources would add exponentially to the risk of the local authority failing its health and safety duties, where the potential for intervention by the HSE, prosecutions and fines would significantly outweigh any MTFS efficiency.	76	0	19	The outcome of the consultation process is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EEYYP8	Reduction in Business Support	The directorate's centralised support function is responsible for providing business support to teams and to the central EDSU function that is responsible for all complaints, reports (for example Cabinet), statutory meeting support such as SACRE, member referrals, FOI requests, subject access requests, managing referral and inputting information into the directorate's central management information systems. A reduction of staff would mean there would likely be delays in input of referrals which would increase waiting times for children and families to receive support from family support services. Delayed communication with schools following receipt of Police Protection Notifications (PPNs) involving pupils within Bridgend schools. There would be an impact on the Youth Justice Service's (JYS) statutory requirements, for example notification of overnight arrests / custody, invites to Bureau and capturing data in relation to education provision for children open to YJS. This could also affect statutory Youth Justice Board key performance indicators. Freedom of information and subject access requests would likely not meet statutory timelines and there would be delays in Cabinet and scrutiny reports being progressed, as EDSU support the approvals process. Delegated power administration support could be delayed and could miss call-in timescales. There would likely be poor customer service to complainants who raise complaints via EDSU. This could escalate to more complaints and member referrals. There would likely be poorer customer service to children, young people and families who access any service within the Education, Early Years and Young People portfolio, including Learner Support, School Support, Pupil Services, Early Years and Young People and School Admissions. Inaccurate or missing data could contribute to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) breaches, for example, if an address change has not been updated in a timely manner. Lastly, there will be significantly increased pressure on practitioners, senior practitioners and team managers.	93	0	23	The outcome of the consultation process is unlikely to be finalised until quarter 3 of 2025-26
EEYYP9	Reduction of staff in Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Statutory Team	Failure to meet the Welsh Government deadline for ALN Implementation Plan 2023-2025. The risk of failure to determine, capture, and disseminate processes relating to the ALN Code and the Education Tribunal in Wales and comply with statutory duties of the local authority. This includes individual development plans (IDP) requirements of the ALNET Act 2018.	44	44	44	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
EEYYP10	Reduction in Education Other Than At Schools (EOTAS) support	Increasing demand and waiting list for specialist support at The Bridge Alternative Provision has resulted in a higher need for bespoke timetables. If there is no lead post overseeing this area the risk appropriate education not provided to those pupils who cannot attend mainstream or special school the local authority would not be fulfilling its statutory duty. Capacity of staff to identify appropriate accredited, vocational packages to meet individual need will be reduced resulting in an increase in number of pupils who are on a waiting list for suitable education. Delays in meeting the needs of learners and significant placement breakdowns will lead to an increase in out of authority specialist placements requested at significant additional cost. Further challenge placed on mainstream schools to identify and agree alternative packages on a case by case basis at significant additional cost. Pupils would not receive the support they require resulting in lower exam outcomes and an increase in those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) post statutory school age. Possible increase in number of permanent exclusions from mainstream schools.	75	0	0	Presenting behaviour in schools this school year has been challenging resulting in Bridgend currently reporting the highest level of exclusions across Wales. This has resulted in an increase in demand for EOTAS provision via referrals from schools for support from Access to Education Panel. There have been a number of pupils waiting to access specialist/EOTAS provision for the entirety of both the school and financial years. Failure to offer EOTAS provision following agreement at Access to Education could result in Education Tribunal challenge. Delays in meeting the needs of learners and will lead to an increase in out of authority specialist placements requested at significant additional cost.

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EEYYP11	Reduction in contribution to Central South Consortium	Depending on where this funding is cut (either from the grant received by the local authority and immediately passported to Central South Consortium) or from the funding allocated for Principal / Improvement Partners it will either: •Reduce curriculum reform support and professional learning and leadership support at a time when the new curriculum is being extended to examination classes; or •Result in a decrease in the number of improvement partners (IP) to work in partnership with school leaders, staff and governing bodies. Each IP would be required to work with more schools with less time in each school. This would mean a reduction in the support available to schools to support pre-inspection and post inspection planning and a reduction in the time available to support senior leader recruitment processes. It will also coincide with anticipated changes as a result of the Middle Tier Review which may create additional work / responsibility for headteachers and senior leaders in relation to school improvement functions without the expected funds to support any such transition.	88	0	88	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
	Total Education, Early Years and Young People		**1,428**	**263**	**981**	

SCHOOLS

SCH1	Efficiency savings against School Delegated Budgets - 1% for 2025-26 and 1% thereafter.	It is important to note that some of this impact may be mitigated by the financial support provided to schools from the local authority in assisting schools to meet cost pressures in relation to pay and pensions, and energy. Further to discussion with headteachers, the following potential impacts have been identified: 1. Risk of increased school deficit positions; 2. Potential to result in some teacher and other staff redundancies; 3. Increase in class sizes; 4. Loss of interventions; 5. Increase in staff absence; 6. Low staff morale; 7. Increased workload; 8. Reduced curriculum offer; 9. Reduced leadership / strategic thinking time; 10. Potential inability to meet statutory requirements; 11. Decrease in adult support in classrooms; 12. Increase in pupil exclusions; 13. Decline in standards; 14. Reduction in ability maintain school buildings; 15. Limited extra-curricular activity; 16. Increase in referrals for behaviour support; 17. Reduced support for learners with additional needs; 18. Reduction in professional learning opportunities; 19. Loss of expertise due to teachers and senior leaders leaving the profession.	1,186	1,186	1,186	Savings achieved due to overall reduction in Individual Schools Budget (ISB). However, reduced budgets have resulted in total projected deficit balances for schools at year end in excess of £5.206m.
	Total Schools		**1,186**	**1,186**	**1,186**	

	Total Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate	**2,614**	**1,449**	**2,167**	

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
SSW2	Redevelop the indoor bowls arena space and explore redevelopment for other purposes that offer increased income generation	The operation of the indoor bowls hall at Bridgend Life Centre generates operating costs that are difficult to cover based on the seasonal usage by the indoor bowls club. Any changes to indoor bowling would not be popular and may have a negative impact on the Council's wellbeing goals. The development of the wellbeing hub inside the bowls hall has improved usage by downsizing the number of bowling rinks already. With investment there may be possibilities for seasonal increased income generation. Potential need for alternative community venue for indoor bowls. Feasibility study would be required during 2024-25.	10	0	0	A feasibility study is currently in process to provide potential opportunities for seasonal usage of the Bowls hall. This saving being achieved will depend on the outcome of the study therefore not likely to be achieved at present. Further updates will be provided in future budget monitoring reports.
SSW4	Consider the transition of currently shared facilities at five school sites (Dual Use Assets), to whole school operation in line with many primary and secondary schools across BCBC	BCBC supports community access of school assets including Pencoed sports centre, Brackla sports centre, Ysgol Bryn Castell, Porthcawl sports hall and Parc Dderwen 3G pitch. The sites are busy with 110 organisations utilising the different spaces available. These are partnership arrangements with schools including cost sharing and often have linked to external funding support. The proposal has been to increase prices for hirers to offset increases in staffing and premises costs / school contributions whilst also creating a saving from increased income generation. There are considerable numbers of junior groups and activities within the usage data for the sites and targeted population groups also. If achieved the proposal will supports sustainability via maximising value for existing assets beyond the school day for community benefit. In particular the model links to 21st century schools and Welsh government aspiration for community use and connection beyond the school day. The school benefit during the day and community beyond, the main risks would be the school not having the opportunity to use the asset outside school hours, having a negative impact on community opportunities.	71	18	71	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW5	Staffing restructure within Prevention and Wellbeing Services	The Prevention and Wellbeing service would be reliant on external grant funding to support its service. If grant funding ceases there will be no meaningful prevention and wellbeing offer in Bridgend significantly increasing pressure on statutory services. There will be a reduction in the number of staff by 3, redundancy costs will need to be funded. In order to achieve this the service is in the process of redesigning to ensure that it is fit for purpose with clear functions and objectives established which will mitigate any significant impact and risks.	147	0	147	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW6	Increase in income charges by increasing standard charges by 10 % across all non residential services	Review of the service pricing model and increasing unit costs for all non residential services with a view to generating additional income. Based on unit cost increase of 10%. Services are provided to vulnerable adults following an assessment of need. There is risk that individuals will cancel care packages and not have their needs met which could result in higher packages of care required in the future cost and / or an increase in debt recovery. In terms of flat rate charges such as Transport and Meals, no additional income can be generated under the current regulations.	100	25	100	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
SSW7	Implementation of the Home remodelling programme across adult services	The support at home remodelling programme across whole of adult services has determined that the service will move to a locality based delivery model which will result in non care staffing savings of £198k. This will result in 5 staff members being made redundant •The model aims to maximise reablement and short-term capacity to support hospital discharge and avoiding hospital admission. The service has been working towards increasing those individuals who go through the short-term services to ensure we maximise independence before we commission long term care packages our current performance is that 53.98% of individuals who completed a package of reablement during quarter 1 2024-25 had no ongoing service need. In 2023-24 38.6% of people had a short term service prior to have a long term package, the service has been working towards increasing this number to 80% of people, in July the figure had increased to 60% of people who had a short term service prior to have a long term package people. To be able to achieve this target the service will no longer be providing long term packages of care in the main to older people, so all future long term packages would be commissioned via independent providers. This should reduce the overall support at home spending levels by £300k.	198	0	198	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW8	Reduction in provision of number of Supported Living Accommodation units	Close one supported living accommodation. Suitable alternative provision would need to be identified. Achieving these savings is dependent on tenant with rights being agreeable to moving to an alternative provision. Review the waking nights expenditure.	190	0	0	Service area actively seeking means to achieve budget saving proposal. Updates will be provided in future revenue monitoring reports.
SSW9	Review of Caswell Clinic social work budget (clinic based at Glanrhyd Hospital)	BCBC host the regional social work team based in the Caswell clinic. All costs are reimbursed so no impact on this small budget reduction	3	3	3	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW10	Apply 4% vacancy factor to social work teams and increase the vacancy factor on non frontline staff from 3% to 4%	In 2024-25 a vacancy factor of 3% was applied to non frontline teams in Social Services and Wellbeing. Care worker and social work posts were excluded due to an assessment of risk that all posts need. There is now greater stability in social work teams which means an assessment of risk means that the vacancy factor can be applied in these teams in adults and children's social care. This will require the step down of agency by the end of the financial year, and it is highly improbable there will be no vacant posts covered by agency due to safeguarding reasons meaning achievement of the full 3% represents a significant risk.	697	174	697	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW11	Reduction of Social Care Workforce Development Partnership (SCWDP) spend.	External training courses / conferences to be supported only where there is an identified need that cannot be met by in-house resources. Use of internal staff to facilitate training workshops. External trainers bring specialist knowledge and skills that internal trainers could not replicate so the impact on statutory training essential to regulatory requirements will need to be closely monitored.	50	0	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

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SSW12	Business efficiencies in support services through reviewing structures in business support, performance and commissioning.	The commissioning team is at full capacity with all colleagues on permanent contracts, so any MTFS saving / restructure will result in redundancy costs. The team are also driving forward key transformational change linked to MTFS savings, so any reduction on capacity will impact our ability to deliver targeted savings elsewhere in the MTFS. There is also a risk that we will not be able to meet essential requirements of the newly implemented WG Code of Practice for commissioning care and support, nor our own internal Contract Procedure Rules, where there is a risk that tenders cannot be undertaken within required timescales. Business support has been restructured to provide a support office model which ensures that statutory minutes linked to safeguarding are completed and distributed in a timely manner and to ensure social work tasks are carried out by support officers, thus maximising the amount of time that social workers spend with children, adults, families and carers. Reduction in this resource will increase the administrative burden on social work staff. Any reduction in the performance team will impact on the ability to complete statutory performance returns. There is a high probability reductions in these teams will result in compulsory redundancies.	129	0	129	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW13	Removal of Safeguarding capacity	Would result in a compulsory redundancy situation. Corporate safeguarding is a statutory duty having no dedicated resource, there is risk of criticism that people will come to harm through no one being available to drive the implementation of safeguarding across the Council. There is also a significant risk of criticism from regulators.	57	0	57	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW14	Reduction in staff within Children's Services	This proposal is to reduce Independent Reviewing Officer numbers by 1 linked to the reduction in the child protection register. This is currently achievable whilst maintaining reasonable caseloads but there is a risk there will be insufficient workforce if the numbers of children subject to registration increase again. It is also proposed that social work assistants in IAA undertake young carers assessments meaning that the Young Carers Worker would be redundant. Finally a review of senior management arrangements can result in some savings. This will need to be monitored closely given the CIW serious concerns in August 2022 which included concerns at management oversight arrangements.	50	50	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW15	Reduction in family group conferencing service contract value. Due to the continued implementation of signs of safety (including family network meetings) and new ways of working less families will need to be referred to the family group conferencing service.	The risks are minimal as we have already begun to lower our usage with the full implementation of Signs of Safety. We have set an expectation that family meetings will be run by Social Workers until it is felt independence from the LA is required. We currently have the criteria: children who have been subject to Child Protection Register (CPR) for longer than three months or subject to Public Law Outline (PLO). We could reduce this to only include those children who become subject to pre-proceedings PLO or are in court.	60	60	60	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
SSW16	Removal of Corporate Parenting Events budget	Low impact as utilising "Just Giving" to raise funds to support the Corporate Parent responsibilities of this Council and partners.	5	5	5	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2025-26 £'000	Value achieved to date 2025-26 £'000	Value likely to be achieved 2025-26 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
SSW17	Management efficiencies	A review of senior management in adult and children's social care will be undertaken to identify efficiencies whilst ensuring there continues to be effective leadership and management capacity which is key to delivering the changes and transformation required to deliver the rest of the MTFS savings and to retain the confidence of regulators who in 2022 had serious concerns regarding management oversight in children's social care and regulated care services	50	0	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
	Total Social Services and Wellbeing		**1,817**	**335**	**1,617**	
COMMUNITIES						
COM1	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	During the pandemic most meetings were arranged virtually, instead of in person. This arrangement has continued in the main since then with hybrid working, although there are clear cases where in-person meetings are essential, with the result that spend on mileage is less than pre-pandemic levels, and budgets can be reduced accordingly with no impact on service provision, but positive benefits for achieving net carbon zero.	32	6	18	There was a similar budget reduction proposal in 2024-25 which was not met in full and has been carried forward into 2025-26 (see COM1 - Appendix 1). The historic target will be met in 2025-26, however it is anticipated there will a shortfall against the in-year proposal. Alternative budgets will have to be identified if the value likely to be achieved does not improve in future revenue monitoring reports.
COM2	Review of cleaning specifications and frequencies on BCBC Operational assets.	Will impact cleaning standards and visibility of cleaning frequencies but change is considered feasible. Will need to review cleaning staff numbers and potential for redundancies however aim will be to implement changes through staff redeployment and recruitment changes across the wider cleaning contract thus avoiding redundancy issues.	35	35	35	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
COM3	Further review of cyclical servicing and maintenance contracts dialling back maintenance items to safety critical and statutory compliance only.	Reduction of cyclical maintenance activity counter productive for long term asset operation. Potential for reduction in Business Support staff as a result of the reduction in cyclical orders although savings to Business Support already form part of current MTFS.	45	0	0	Due to ongoing pressures on the property revenue maintenance budgets the budget reduction proposal is unlikely to be achieved in 2025-26.
COM4	Increase income across the commercial property portfolio	Change will take time to implement and require additional surveyor resource over time.	15	0	15	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
COM5	Review Legionella and Asbestos officer structure.	Savings identify the option of creating a newly combined legionella and asbestos team reducing the overall staffing budget	10	10	10	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
COM6	Removal of funding from Southern Wales Tourism Group	Removal of BCBC contribution of funding from external tourism group. Will impact on reduction in marketing activities for BCBC.	9	9	9	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
COM7	Further reduction in Porthcawl Programme budget	Further reduction in Porthcawl Programme budget - reduction excluding post and minimal development spend.	35	35	35	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
COM8	Increase bulky waste charges from £30 for 3 items to £35	Potential increase in fly tipping. Increase would not result in full cost recovery under the current contract, but recyclable tonnages contribute to an improved recycling level against Welsh Government targets to reduce the likelihood of penalties.	10	3	10	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

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COM9	Increase fees on Bereavement services, i.e. burial charges by 20%	Income target has been based on historic income levels achieved and the application of a 20% increase to current charges. This will be the second year that bereavement charges have increased. There is a risk to achieving the income target if there is a reduction in burials compared with the last two years if they return to pre-pandemic levels, or if relatives seek alternative services from neighbouring authorities. This has been reflected in the target income.	100	0	50	Income received to date in 2025-26 compared with 2024-25 is not showing an increase. Close monitoring of the income will continue and updates provided to Cabinet in future revenue budget monitoring reports.
COM10	Reduction in the size of the waste enforcement team.	Reduction in staff who undertake enforcement activities relating to waste. There is a risk that the ability to react to issues will be reduced.	156	83	137	Shortfall in savings due to the timing of the restructure. Saving will be made in full in 2026-27.
COM11	Commercially let Pandy Depot	Would require existing BCBC archive storage to be condensed or relocated to other location and take time to ready for commercial letting. Reduce the amount of depot facilities for BCBC operations. Will require capital to ready for letting. Full savings unlikely until 2025-26, but partial savings are a possibility in 2024-25.	50	0	0	Ongoing opportunities being sought to achieve this budget reduction proposal, but let not agreed by end of quarter 1. Projections will be updated throughout the financial year as opportunities continue to be sought.
COM12	Stop bi-annual supply of blue refuse sacks to all residents.	This saving is agreed & will be implemented from April 2025. This would mean residents would have to provide their own bags for containment of refuse. Likely to be an unpopular change for residents who currently have these delivered with food waste liners. The amount of the saving is now slightly reduced in 2025-26 because of the contactors expenditure on the bags already ordered but will be realised in full from 2026-27.	220	220	220	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
	Total Communities Directorate		**717**	**401**	**539**	

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

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CHIEF EXECUTIVES						
CEX1	Remove vacant grade 6 post (0.5) - Democratic Services	Will result in increased demand on other staff members. Statutory work will need to be prioritised. Service will be operating at minimum provision.	20	20	20	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX2	Reduction in payment to Shared Regulatory Services (SRS)	SRS have been asked to make a reduction to their budget. This will need to be agreed by the Joint Committee in February. This will impact on core service provision and authority specific services.	153	153	153	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX3	Review of the current Learning and Development provision	Reduces the available training support for employees and may impact on learning and development opportunities.	84	21	84	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX4	Reduction in Corporate Apprenticeship budget - 15%	The budget has been underspent due to the turnover of apprentices. The reduction in budget will lead to approx. one less corporate apprentice per annum and periods of inactivity between recruitment rounds.	58	58	58	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX5	Review support capacity across finance	The service will be unable to respond in a timely manner to requests for information or support with budget information	31	0	8	Shortfall in savings target due to timing of implementation of restructure. Saving will be achieved in full by 2026-27.
CEX7	Review the capacity within the customer services team.	This is a non statutory service. This proposal is to review the work in the team which will increase response times to callers who contact the Authority either by phone or in person, will reduce capacity to deal with emails from the public and blue car badge applications.	67	17	67	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX8	Extend further the use of Houses in Multiple Occupation to provide temporary accommodation for single homeless individuals	This will reduce the Council's reliance on more expensive accommodation options such as tourism style properties.	120	30	120	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX9	Management restructure across the Chief Executive's Directorate	This will result in reduced capacity across the directorate and reduced responsiveness	77	77	77	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX10	Restructure the ICT service	This will reduce the capacity within the team to deal with business as usual and to support service configurations in other service areas	78	0	20	Shortfall in savings target due to timing of implementation of restructure. Saving will be achieved in full by 2026-27.
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		**688**	**376**	**606**	
CORPORATE / COUNCIL WIDE						
CW1	Change the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy from a straight line to annuity method. The MRP is the charge to revenue made in respect of paying off the principal sum of the borrowing undertaken to finance the capital programme	The change in policy will improve the Council's ability to make prudent provision as it helps to distribute the MRP more fairly when factoring that the value of money decreases with time due to its earning potential. The annuity method provides a fairer charge than equal instalments as it takes account of the time value of money.	1,000	1,000	1,000	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26

Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

APPENDIX 2

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CW2	Removal of uncommitted funding set aside in the MTFS 2024-28 towards emerging budget pressures and as a contingency against non-deliverability of budget reduction proposals. The original allocations were £550k and £1.08 million respectively. Only £87k has been allocated during the year resulting in a balance of £1.543 million as a contribution to continuing budget pressures	There will be no negative impact on service delivery, these budgets were set aside in 2024-25 to meet new and continuing budget pressures. A number of these are recurring and this funding will help to reduce overspends in future years. It does mean, however, that there is less headroom corporately to deal with unexpected financial pressures going forward.	1,543	1,543	1,543	Full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
	Total Corporate / Council Wide		**2,543**	**2,543**	**2,543**	
	GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		**8,379**	**5,104**	**7,472**	
	REDUCTION SHORTFALL				**907**	

3,722	**3,382**	**5,930**
2,167	**2,131**	**893**
2,490	**2,866**	**1,556**
8,379	**8,379**	**8,379**

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2025-26 Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE						
School Delegated Budgets	147,180	(23,679)	123,501	123,501	-	0.0%
Inclusion Group	9,902	(1,148)	8,754	8,409	(345)	-3.9%
Early Years and Young People	3,391	(545)	2,846	2,881	35	1.2%
Strategic Performance and Support	17,730	(4,265)	13,465	13,242	(223)	-1.7%
Schools Support	1,611	(829)	782	764	(18)	-2.3%
Sustainable Communities For Learning	4,002	(3)	3,999	3,984	(15)	-0.4%
Other Education and Family Support	1,870	(64)	1,806	1,800	(6)	-0.3%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	**185,686**	**(30,533)**	**155,153**	**154,581**	**(572)**	**-0.4%**
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	104,290	(26,239)	78,051	77,527	(524)	-0.67%
Prevention and Wellbeing	7,171	(943)	6,228	6,187	(41)	-0.66%
Childrens Social Care	34,912	(1,552)	33,360	34,551	1,191	3.57%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	**146,373**	**(28,734)**	**117,639**	**118,265**	**626**	**0.5%**
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,467	(1,663)	804	804	-	0.0%
Strategic Regeneration	1,893	(972)	921	877	(44)	-4.8%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	11,249	(9,664)	1,585	1,549	(36)	-2.3%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	15,723	(2,430)	13,293	13,293	-	0.0%
Highways and Green Spaces	27,280	(13,857)	13,423	13,556	133	1.0%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	290	(4)	286	297	11	3.8%
Corporate Landlord	14,556	(11,006)	3,550	3,301	(249)	-7.0%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	**73,458**	**(39,596)**	**33,862**	**33,677**	**(185)**	**-0.5%**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	420	(2)	418	430	12	2.9%
Finance	39,615	(35,408)	4,207	4,506	299	7.1%
HR/OD	2,282	(441)	1,841	1,872	31	1.7%
Partnerships	3,796	(1,588)	2,208	2,447	239	10.8%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	7,091	(1,116)	5,975	6,031	56	0.9%
Elections	185	(3)	182	204	22	12.1%
ICT	5,441	(1,261)	4,180	4,445	265	6.3%
Housing & Homelessness	12,628	(7,827)	4,801	4,723	(78)	-1.6%
Business Support	1,163	(137)	1,026	1,038	12	1.2%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	**72,621**	**(47,783)**	**24,838**	**25,696**	**858**	**3.5%**
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	**478,138**	**(146,646)**	**331,492**	**332,219**	**727**	**0.2%**
Council Wide Budgets	53,135	(1,401)	51,734	51,905	171	0.3%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	**531,273**	**(148,047)**	**383,226**	**384,124**	**898**	**0.2%**

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2024-25**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**NIGEL SMITH, GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Paragraph 22.5 of the Financial Procedure Rules require the Chief Finance Officer to report quarterly to Cabinet, summarising borrowing and investment activity and indicating compliance with any statutory or Council approved guidelines together with a half yearly and an annual report to Council.**
Executive Summary:	**The report provides an update of Treasury Management activity for the year 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.** **As at 31 March 2025 the Council had £103.80 million of long term debt, £15.66 million of other long term liabilities and an overall net debt position of £82.71 million.** **The average interest rate for debt was 4.73% (excluding Salix borrowing which is interest free) and for investments it was 4.39%.** **The Council has a manageable maturity structure of borrowing, with its current debt repayable at various points over the next 30 years.** **The Council has complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management Code and Welsh Government Investment Guidance.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' (the TM Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year.

- report the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2024-25.

2. Background

2.1 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

2.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 edition (the CIPFA TM Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year, and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The CIPFA TM Code also requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters, and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included throughout this report. Welsh Government (WG) guidance issued in November 2019 on Local Authority Investments requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA TM Code and the Welsh Government Guidance.

2.3 The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2021 edition) (Prudential Code) includes a requirement for Local Authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments in the Prudential Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. The Council's Capital Strategy 2024-25 complied with CIPFA's requirement and included the Prudential Indicators along with the details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked, as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans, and both were approved together by Council on 28 February 2024.

2.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice
- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 External Context – Economic Background

3.1.1 UK annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained above the 2% Bank of England (BoE) target in the later part of the period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported headline consumer prices at 2.6% as at 31 March 2025, down from 2.8% in the previous month.

3.1.2 The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.5% at its March 2025 meeting, having reduced it in February from 4.75%. At the March MPC meeting, members voted 8-1 to maintain Bank Rate at 4.5%, with only one member preferring another 25 basis points cut. Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would continue to fall throughout 2025. The first cut of 0.25 basis points was realised in May's MPC meeting taking the bank rate to 4.25% with further cuts expected in August and November, bringing the end of March 2026 forecast rate to 3.75%.

3.1.3 Financial market sentiment was reasonably positive over most of the period, but economic, financial and geopolitical issues meant the trend of market volatility remained. In the latter part of the period, volatility increased and bond yields started to fall following a January peak, as the economic uncertainty around likely US trade policy impacted financial markets. Yields in the UK and US started to diverge in the last month of the period, with the former rising around concerns over the fiscal implications on the UK government from weaker growth, business sentiment and higher rates, while the latter started falling on potential recession fears due to the unpredictable nature of policy announcements by the US President and their potential impact

3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Lending Facility Advice

3.2.1 As the Council may need to borrow to support its capital programme, it continues to follow the PWLB requirement for borrowing to not invest in assets primarily for yield, or financial return, as this would prevent the Council from accessing funding from the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.

3.2.2 The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in line with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance and CIPFA's TM Code. To comply with the Prudential Code authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Prudential Code also states it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold, however, authorities with existing commercial investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments. The Council has complied with the full requirements of both codes during the 2024-25 financial year.

3.3 Treasury Management update for the year ending 31 March 2025

3.3.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during the year. The Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25 was approved by Council on 28 February 2024.

3.3.2 A summary of the treasury management activities is shown in the Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25 at **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position on 31 March 2025 is shown in Table 1 below, and more detail is provided within the appendix. During the year an additional £5m long term borrowing was taken out from the PWLB to replace a £5.8m long term loan maturing 31 March 2025, although this was taken out over a 16 month period, maturing 6 June 2026.

3.3.3 The balance on investments held on 31 March 2025 was £36.75 million, with an average interest rate of 4.39%. The total balance of investments has reduced compared to those at the end of last financial year, 31 March 2024, when the balance held was £50.00 million, at an average interest rate of 5.02%. The short-term borrowing taken out for cashflow purposes at the end of the previous year was repaid in May 2024 but further short term borrowing of £5m was taken out on 31 January 2025, maturing 30 April 2025 for cashflow purposes.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 31 March 2025

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2024 £m	Principal as at 31/03/2025 £m	Average Rate 31/03/2025 %
External Long-Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	77.04	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (interest Free)	2.74	2.51	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	5.00	5.50
Total External Long-Term Borrowing	**104.61**	**103.80**	**4.73***
Other Long-Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	12.97	11.97	
IFRS 16 Leases	NIL	3.69	
Total Other Long-Term Liabilities	**12.97**	**15.66**	
Total Gross Debt	**117.58**	**119.46**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Local Authorities	44.00	NIL	NIL
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	12.75	4.52
Banks	6.00	6.00	3.93
DMO	NIL	18.00	4.45
Total Treasury Investments	**50.00**	**36.75**	**4.39**
Net Debt	**67.58**	**82.71**	

* Excluding Salix loans which are interest free
** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 9.50 years remaining term

3.3.3 The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054 though these may be rescheduled in advance of this maturity date with the lender having the ability to recall the debt at 2 intervals in the year, July and January. However, this is currently unlikely in the current interest climate and the option was not exercised on 22 January 2025.

3.3.4 The Total Other Long Term Liabilities figure of £15.66 million at 31 March 2025 includes £11.97 million for the Council's Private Finance initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg. The Other Long-Term Liabilities reflect leases required to be recognised under International Financial Reporting Standard 16 – Leases (IFRS 16).

3.3.5 Both the CIPFA TM Code and Welsh Government Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Councils' agreed minimum credit rating.

3.3.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. Schedule A shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

3.3.7 There are no long-term investment (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 31 March 2025. All investments at 31 March 2025 are short term deposits including instant access and fixed term deposits.

3.3.8 The Treasury Management Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2024-25 set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy compared to the actual at 31 March 2025 are shown in **Appendix A** and these show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the period.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives because of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The Climate Change and nature implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report and attached **Appendix A**.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the treasury management activities for 2024-25 for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- Note the Treasury Management Indicators for the period year ending 31 March 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.

Background documents

None

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Treasury Management
Outturn Report to 31 March 2025

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows on a day-to-day basis and is carried out in accordance with legislation and Codes of Practice. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2024-25 was approved by Council on 28 February 2024.
- Inflation, at 31 March 2025, measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), continued to stay above the Bank of England's target of 2% at 2.6%, down from 2.8% in the previous month.
- The Bank of England base rate was reduced to 4.50% in February and remained at this rate as at 31 March 2025.
- £5 million long-term debt was taken out during the period with Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). On the 31 March 2025 £5.58 million of PWLB debt was repaid. Interest rates on long term-debt remain unchanged at an average of 4.73%.
- Total external borrowing at 31 March 2025 was £98.80 million, a reduction of £0.81 million from the previous quarter due to the scheduled repayment of a PWLB loan of £5.58 million, offset by an additional short term PWLB loan of £5 million, and a slight reduction of £0.23m of Salix debt.
- Total investments as at 31 March 2025 were £36.75 million, a reduction of £6.15 million from the previous quarter and a £13.25 million reduction from 1 April 2024.
- Average interest rates on investments as at 31 March 2025 was 4.39%, a reduction from 31 March 2024 of 5.02% as a result of reductions in the bank rate and associated returns on short term investments.
- The Council's investments are split across a number of counterparties, including local authorities, money market funds and banks.
- Investments are made on the basis of security, liquidity and, only then, return, commensurate with the security and liquidity of the investment.
- Due to the current level of reserves, the Council is able to use short-term resources to fund capital expenditure in lieu of external borrowing. However, this is only a short-term position. The Council took out new borrowing during the year for cash flow purposes. The liability benchmark (Chart 1) suggests that the Council may need new borrowing of up to £61 million during 2025-26, and a further £20m in 2026-27.
- The Council may need to borrow for cash flow purposes. This may be short-term borrowing (less than 12 months) to manage day-to-day operational cash flow, or the Council may take out longer duration debt where there is a borrowing requirement or where it would be cost effective to do so. Short term borrowing of £5m was taken out at the end of January 2025 with a duration of 3 months, and a further £5m was borrowed from the PWLB in February 2025 for a duration of 16 months.
- Council approved a change to the method of setting aside resources to repay debt, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), on 23 October 2024. The impact of this change has been reflected within this report as it affects the Capital Financing Requirement.
- The Council has operated within the approved limits set out in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Treasury management activities are the *'management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'* (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2021) (CIPFA TM Code).

The definition of 'Investments' includes:

- Treasury Management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), and
- non-Treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services, or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity.

The CIPFA TM Code sets out that it is not prudent to invest purely for financial return and the PWLB have set a lending requirement that Councils do not invest purely for financial return in order to be able to access borrowing from the PWLB.

The Council carries out its treasury management function in accordance with the CIPFA TM Code and the legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA TM Code and Welsh Government Guidance.

The Council has an integrated Treasury Management Strategy where borrowing and investments are managed in accordance with best professional practice, which is assessed either from internal expertise or consultation with our external advisers. The Council will look to borrow money if needed to either meet short term cash flow needs or to fund capital schemes approved within the capital programme. Therefore, any actual loans taken are not generally associated with particular items of expenditure or assets.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer. The Governance and Audit Committee are responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies and regular reports will be presented to the Committee for their consideration.

2.0 ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Both the UK and US elected new governments during the period, whose policy decisions impacted the economic outlook. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered her Spring Statement in March 2025, following her Budget in October 2024. Based on the plans announced, the Office for Budget Responsibility downgraded its predictions for UK growth in 2025 to 1% from 2%. The market reaction to the Spring Statement

was more muted compared to the Budget, with very recent market turbulence being driven more by US trade policy decisions and President Trump.

After revising its interest rate forecast in November following the Budget, the Council's treasury management advisor, Arlingclose, maintained its stance that Bank Rate will fall to 3.75% in 2025.

UK annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained above the 2% Bank of England target in the later part of the period. The Office for National Statistics reported headline consumer prices at 2.6% in March 2025, down from 2.8% in the previous month and below expectations.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee held Bank Rate at 4.5% at its March 2025 meeting, having reduced it in February from 4.75%. At the March Monetary Policy Committee meeting, members voted 8-1 to maintain Bank Rate at 4.5%, with only one member preferring another 25 basis points cut.

The February Monetary Policy Report showed the BoE expected GDP growth in 2025 to be significantly weaker compared to the November Report. GDP is forecast to rise by 0.1% in Quarter 1 (January – March) 2025. The outlook for CPI inflation showed it remaining above the MPC's 2% target throughout 2025. It is expected to hit around 3.5% by June before peaking at 3.7% in Quarter 3 (July – September) 2025 and then easing towards the end of the year but staying above the 2% target. The unemployment rate was expected to rise steadily to around 4.75% by the end of the forecast horizon, above the assumed medium-term equilibrium unemployment rate of 4.5%.

Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its view that Bank Rate would continue to fall throughout 2025. From the cuts in August and November 2024 and February 2025, which took Bank Rate to 4.50%, they predicted that May would be the likely month for the next reduction (which indeed the Monetary Policy Committee did reduce interest rates to 4.25%), with other cuts following in line with Monetary Policy Report months to take Bank Rate down to around 3.75% by the end of 2025.

3.0 EXTERNAL DEBT AND INVESTMENT POSITION

The Council's external debt and investments at 31 March 2025 are set out in Table 1 below. The Council held £98.80 million of Long Term Borrowing comprising:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB - UK government) at fixed rates and duration
- Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) which may be rescheduled ahead of their maturity of 22 July 2054 (no call was made in January 2025)
- £2.51 million of Salix interest-free loans

The Council borrowed £5 million for short term cash flow purposes in Quarter 4 in January for 3 months from Brentwood Borough Council, maturing 30 April 2025 and £5 million from PWLB over a slightly longer period in February 2025, maturing in June 2026.

At 31 March 2025 the Council had £36.75 million of investments for treasury management purposes and £4.89 million of investments for commercial purposes.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 31 March 2025

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2024 £m	Principal as at 31/03/2025 £m	Average Rate 31/03/2025 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	77.62	77.04	4.70
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (Interest Free)	2.74	2.51	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	5.00	5.50
Total External Borrowing	**104.61**	**103.80**	**4.73***
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**	12.97	11.97	
IFRS 16 Leases	NIL	3.69	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**12.97**	**15.66**	
Total Gross Debt	**117.58**	**119.46**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
DMO	NIL	18.00	4.45
Local Authorities	44.00	NIL	NIL
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	12.75	4.52
Banks	6.00	6.00	3.93
Total Treasury Investments	**50.00**	**36.75**	**4.39**
Net Debt	**67.58**	**82.71**	

Investments for Commercial Purposes	Fair Value as at 31/03/2024 £m	Return 31/3/2025 £m
Investments	4.890	0.457

** Excluding Salix loans which are interest free and Short Term borrowing*
*** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 9.25 years remaining term*

The current profile of repayment of the Council's long-term debt is set out in the Liability Benchmark chart below. The table below assumes that the Public Works Loan Board and Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans will be repayable on their maturity date. However, although shown as maturing in 2054 the £19.25 million of Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans can be called at 2 intervals in the year July and January however it is currently unlikely in the current interest climate. The option was not exercised on 22 January 2025.

PWLB lending criteria requires that the Council does not invest purely for financial return if it wishes to access any new PWLB borrowing. The CIPFA TM Code sets out that it is not prudent for local authorities to invest for financial return.

All borrowing by the Council is undertaken as a single pool of debt rather than having loans specific to individual schemes. Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue to repay that debt in later years, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Council approved a change to the MRP Policy at its meeting of 23 October 2024, to move from a straight line method of calculation of MRP to an annuity method. The annuity method of calculating MRP results in lower MRP charges in earlier years and higher charges in later years. However, when considering the total cost of MRP plus interest charges, the annuity method provides a more even cost each year. It is also considered more prudent as it takes into account the time value of money, so reflects the impact of having £100 now as being more valuable than £100 in one years' time.

Liability benchmark

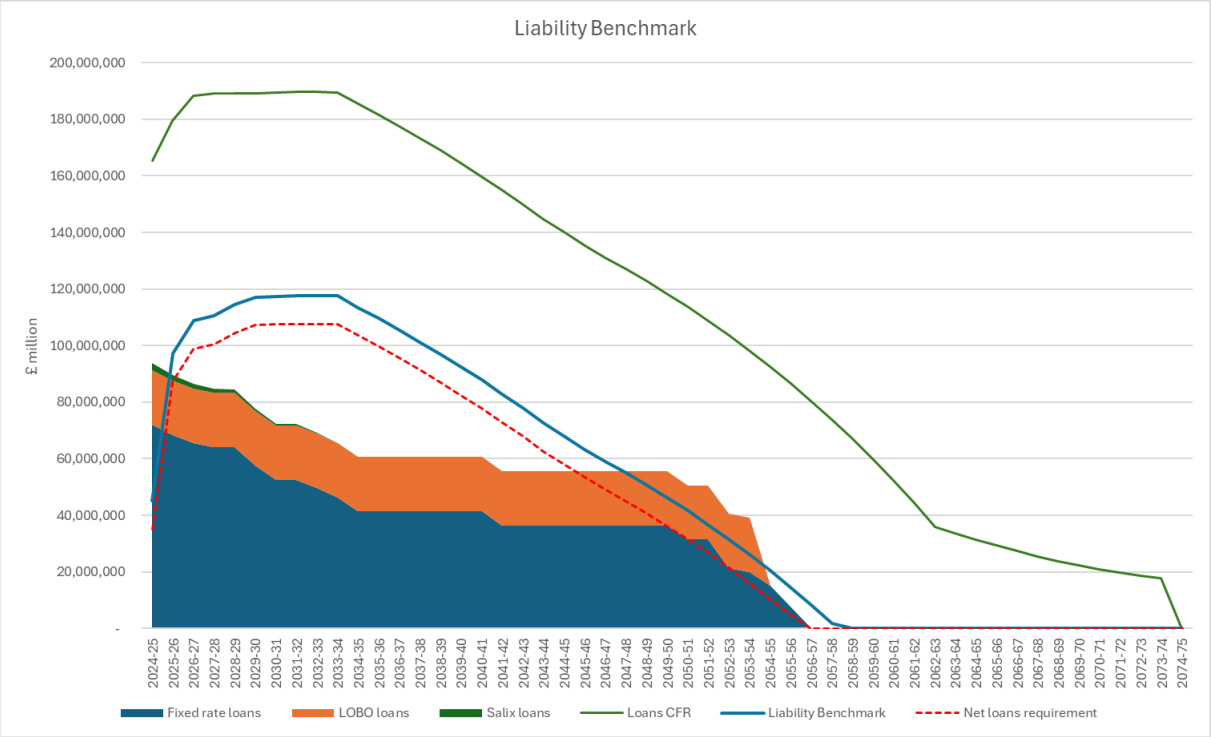
The liability benchmark is a tool which helps to assess the lowest level of borrowing the Council needs, taking into account available cash resources to fund capital expenditure in the short term. A minimum level of investments is factored into the calculation, set at £10 million, which are held as reasonably liquid to ensure the Council has available cash resources to meet day-to-day cash flow requirements. Forecast borrowing needs are based on capital expenditure estimates and available useable reserves. The underlying need to borrow to fund capital expenditure (known as the Capital Financing Requirement or CFR) is the amount of capital expenditure which is not funded via grants, capital receipts or contributions from revenue and earmarked reserves.

Table 2 below shows the Capital Financing Requirement and the calculation of the liability benchmark. It is important to note that the graph is based on the current approved capital programme and the borrowing associated therein. Any new schemes which require debt financing will increase the CFR and loans requirement.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31 March 2024 actual £m	31 March 2025 estimate (TMS) £m	31 March 2025 actual £m	31 March 2026 forecast £m	31 March 2027 forecast £m
Capital Financing Requirement	175.72	181.30	181.09	193.82	201.29
Less: Other debt liabilities	(12.97)	(14.98)	(15.77)	(14.56)	(13.25)
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	***162.75***	***166.33***	***165.32***	***179.27***	***188.04***
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	(128.35)	(98.59)	(130.25)	(92.33)	(89.54)
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Liability Benchmark	**44.40**	**77.74**	**45.07**	**96.93**	**108.50**

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its **current** capital plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level to manage day-to-day cash flow.



It is forecast that the Council will likely need to borrow long term in 2025-26 although this is based on a number of assumptions including the forecast capital programme expenditure and the level and use of reserves.

The Section 151 Officer will monitor and update the liability benchmark assumptions on an on-going basis and report any significant changes within the treasury

management monitoring reports to Cabinet, the Governance and Audit Committee and Council as appropriate. This could be as a result of changes in the level of usable reserves at year end, slippage within the Capital Programme or changes within the working capital assumptions which may affect the Council's need to take new long-term borrowing.

4.0 BORROWING

As at 31 March 2025 the Council held £98.80 million of Long-Term Borrowing, £96.29 million of which is fixed long term loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes.

Based on current forecasts the anticipated need to borrow during 2025-26 is £61 million with further borrowing of £20 million in 2026-27. This includes the need to refinance borrowing to be repaid during 2025-26 and 2026-27 of £11.5 million. The gap between the shaded area and the blue line in the Liability Benchmark (Chart 1) above is the forecast need to borrow.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), and this was the source for the most recent borrowing of £5 million taken out on 6 February 2025. The Council will always consider long term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and other local authorities if appropriate. The Council will also investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA TM Code.

The Council has loans from PWLB maturing within the next 3 financial years that it will need to repay. The value of the loans due to be repaid over the next 3 years is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Value of PWLB maturing debt

	2025-26 £ million	2026-27 £ million	2027-28 £ million
Value of maturing debt	3.709	7.790	1.395

£5.58 million for 2024-25 was repaid on 31 March 2025. As noted above the Council may need to borrow during 2025-26 which would replace maturing loans.

Maturity structure of borrowing

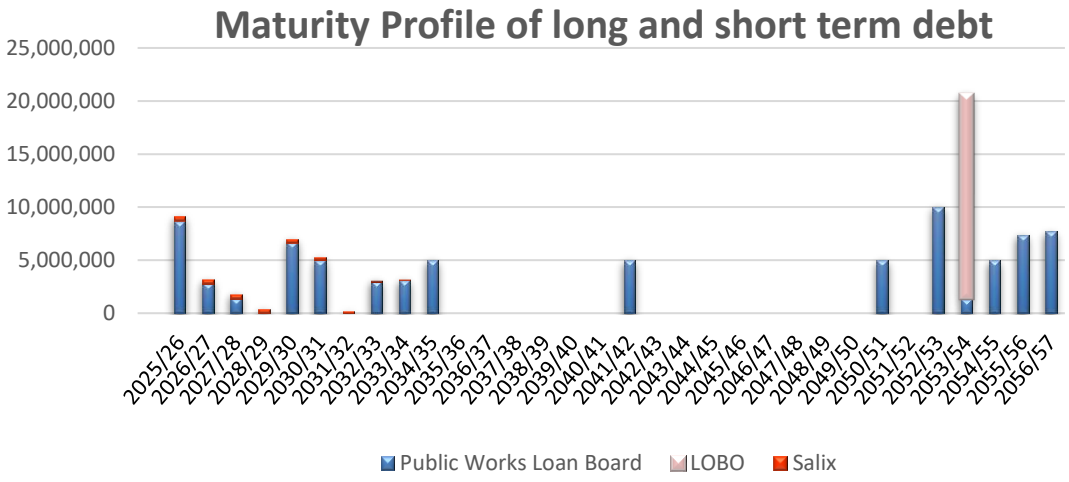
The maturity structure of borrowing indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing. The limits are set to avoid having large amounts of debt maturing in a short space of time and is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. Where the maturity date of borrowing is unknown, as in the case of LOBO loans, the maturity should normally be determined by reference to the earliest date at which the lender can require repayment. The £19.25 million of LOBO

loans has therefore been included in the 'Under 12 months' category. This table also reflects the PWLB loans repayable in 2025-26.

Table 4: Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing	Upper limit	lower limit	£ million	As at 31 Mar 2025
Under 12 months	50%	0%	23.35	23.64%
Over 12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	8.18	8.28%
Over 2 years and within 5 years	25%	0%	9.14	9.25%
Over 5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	16.74	16.94%
Over 10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	5.00	5.06%
20 years and above	60%	25%	36.39	36.83%
Total	**-**	**-**	**98.80**	**100%**

As can be seen from the table above the maturity structure remains within the limits approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25. The following chart provides the maturity profile of the Council's debt. The chart shows that the Council's long term debt is well spread with a manageable maturity structure, with no single year having a disproportionately high level of debt repayment.



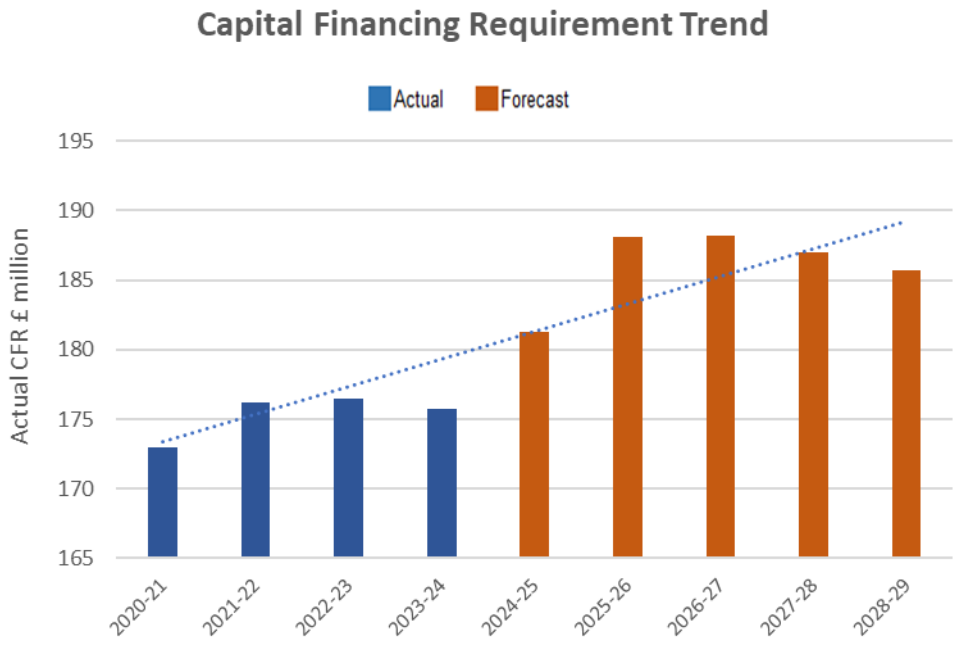
The LOBO loans are subject to the lender having the right to change the rate of interest payable during the financial year at either of two trigger points - January and July, with the Council having the right to refuse the change, triggering early repayment and the need to re-finance. Whilst the Council currently has sufficient funds to repay these loans and so the refinancing risk is manageable, it will, however, need to consider taking out new debt to replace these loans in future.

Table 5: LOBO loans

Commencement date	Loan value £m	Potential repayment date	Option frequency	Full term maturity
22 January 2004	4.00	22 July 2025	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	5.00	22 July 2025	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	10.25	22 July 2025	6 months	22 January 2054

In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Council is internally borrowing, which is when it uses temporary cash balances it holds in the short term instead of undertaking external borrowing. The current year's estimated level of internal borrowing is £72.61 million. This is shown by the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) net of its external level of debt including other long term debt liabilities. The Council's forecast CFR as at 31 March 2025 is £181.30 million, external borrowing forecast at 31 March 2025 is £93.71 million and other long term debt liabilities forecast to be £14.98 million, which is primarily the PFI Maesteg School scheme plus the lease commitments of right of use assets. These leases are included in line with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 (IFRS16) which requires that right of use assets and the equivalent lease liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet as from 1 April 2024.

The chart below shows the trend in the CFR based on **current** capital commitments within the capital programme reported at quarter 3 – 2024-25. The CFR is anticipated to increase in the current year assuming capital expenditure is incurred as currently anticipated. Due to the increase in forecast capital expenditure and borrowing in the capital programme, the CFR is expected to further increase in 2025-26 before reducing from 2026-27. This is on the assumption that there will be no new schemes in future which require debt financing. If new schemes are added which require debt finance, the CFR will continue to increase.



5.0 TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council holds treasury investments as a result of temporary cash balances arising from its day-to-day activities. The management of the day-to-day cash requirements of the Council is undertaken in-house with advice from Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Management advisors. This may involve temporary borrowing to meet cash-flow needs or temporary lending of surplus funds. Investment balances can fluctuate daily and arise as a result of a range of circumstances, including timing differences of revenue and capital cash flows, reserves and other balances held for future use.

Investments are made in institutions approved by the Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy and in accordance with investment guidelines issued by the Welsh Government. As part of the Markets and Financial Instruments Directive II (MIFID II), the Council elected for 'professional' status, which covers national and regional governments and public bodies. The categories of investments the Council can invest in can be changed subject to Council approval.

Treasury investments are made primarily on the basis of ensuring security of the funds invested, whilst managing liquidity, and only then considering a commensurate return on the investment. As at 31 March 2025 the Council held £36.75 million of investments, with a weighted average return over the period of 4.81%.

Table 6 below shows the investment profile as at 31 March 2025.

Table 6: Investments by counterparty type

Investment Category	Balance 1 April 2024 £m	Investments made in period £m	Investments repaid in period £m	Balance 31 March 2025 £m	Weighted interest rate 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 %
Government DMO	0.00	427.25	(409.25)	18.00	4.71
Local Authorities	44.00	0.00	(44.00)	0.00	4.91
Money Market Funds	NIL	112.35	(99.60)	12.75	4.93
Banks (instant access/notice accounts)	6.00	49.10	(49.10)	6.00	3.83
TOTAL	**50.00**	**588.70**	**(601.95)**	**36.75**	**4.81**

The following should be noted:

- During the period to 31 March 2025 all investments made were in line with the approved counterparties within the Treasury Management Strategy.
- Investments are diversified over a number of organisations across different sectors, demonstrating a diversified investment portfolio.
- All investments are in sterling and are rated A- and above as per the approved criteria or with a public body.

- The weighted average rates are for all investments made during 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The overall interest receivable from treasury investments for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 was £4.337 million. Interest rates have continued to fall from their peak of 5.25%, from the first cut in August 2024 followed by a number of further cuts, the latest being in February 2025 taking the Bank Rate to 4.50%, which it was as at 31 March 2025. The Council will continue to take a cautious approach to investing to ensure as its primary concern the security of any investments made. The risk of default for investments held is considered negligible.

All investments longer than 364 days will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from the Council's Treasury Management advisors as necessary. All investments as at 31 March 2025 were short term of less than one year duration and Table 7 shows the actual value of principal invested beyond 1 year as £Nil.

Table 7: Sums invested for periods longer than a year

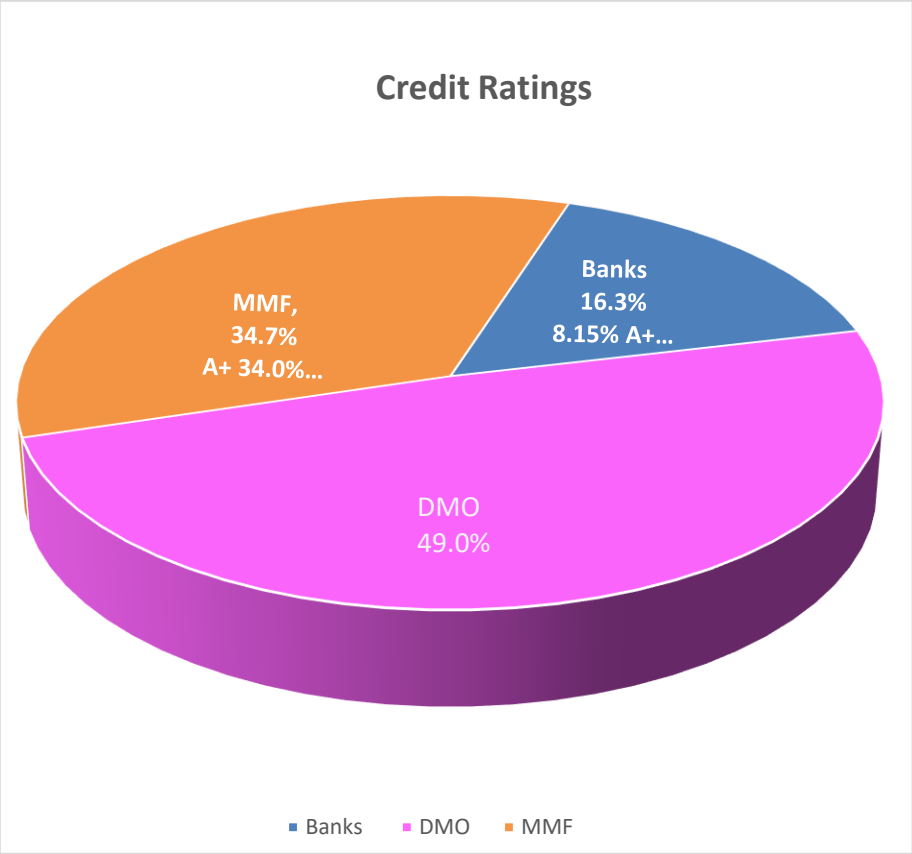
Price risk indicator	TMS 2024-25 £m	Actual £m
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end	15	NIL

The below table details the Council's investments by counterparty and maturity profile.

Table 8: Investments by maturity

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits maturing within 1 month £m	Deposits maturing within 2-3 months £m	TOTAL £m
Debt Management Office		18.00		18.00
Money Market Funds	12.75			12.75
Banks	6.00			6.00
Total	**18.75**	**18.00**		**36.75**

The pie chart below summarises the distribution of the Council's investments by credit ratings. The Council held £18 million with the Debt Management Office at 31 March 2025 which is the Executive Agency of the UK Treasury and rated AA.



6.0 INTEREST RATE EXPOSURES

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator below.

The following Table is based on investments at 31 March 2025.

Table 9: Interest Rate Exposure

Interest rate risk indicator	£ million
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(0.159)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	0.352

It is important to note that this is an indicator, not a limit. It is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments would be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they are currently, and that the treasury investment and

borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the next 12 months, which in practice is not the case. The figure for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator is not the same figure as the 1% increase (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would only exercise their option if there was an increase in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates. A comparison of interest expenditure and income due for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 is shown below.

Table 10: Interest

	01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 £ million
Interest expenditure payable on long term borrowing	(6.100)
Interest income received in period	4.771
Net interest cost	(1.329)

7.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activities include investments in subsidiaries and investments in property. A schedule of the Council's existing non-treasury investments (currently limited to owned property) is set out in Table 11. PWLB guidance requires that local authorities should review their investment portfolio if they wish to secure PWLB borrowing but does not require the local authority to sell existing investment assets. This category covers non-financial assets held wholly or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. These assets are valued on an annual basis to reflect market conditions and the current value at the time they are valued, otherwise known as Fair Value, which provides security of their value and continued benefit to the Council.

Table 11: Non-treasury investments

Non-treasury investments Asset Value	£ million
Bridgend Science Park - Units 1 & 2	3.070
Waterton Cross Land	0.560
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate Plot 53	0.675
Village Farm Plots 32,119 & 120	0.385
Tyrewise Bridgend	0.200
Total at Fair Value	**4.890**
Actual return 2024-25	**0.458**

The Council considers that the scale of its investment properties is proportionate to the resources of the Council as the investment represents less than 1% of its total long-term assets.

In accordance with Welsh Government Investment Guidance these are to be classified as non-treasury investments.

Schedule A – Credit Rating Equivalence Table

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+	F1	A1		A+	A-1
		A		A2		A	
		A-	F2	A3	P-2	A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+		Baa1		BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	
		BBB-	F3	Baa3	P-3	BBB-	A-3
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Schedule B – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast –25 March 2025

	Current	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	4.90	4.35	4.10	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.33	4.25	4.15	4.05	3.95	3.95	3.95	4.00	4.05	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
Downside risk	0.00	-0.55	-0.60	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.05	-1.10
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.70	4.50	4.35	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.55	-0.60	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.05	-1.10
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	5.22	4.95	4.85	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Downside risk	0.00	-0.55	-0.60	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.52	4.65	4.55	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45
Downside risk	0.00	-0.55	-0.60	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90

Choosing to leave monetary policy unchanged in March, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) continues to walk the fine line between supporting an economy struggling to expand and counterbalancing rising inflation, amid increasing uncertainties due to fiscal and political uncertainty.

The messaging in the minutes was somewhat more hawkish. The 8-1 voting split and mentions of both elevated inflation commuting into second round effects and the need for policy to remain restrictive for as long as necessary suggests growing concerns on the inflationary front.

UK GDP growth is broadly flat. There appears little impetus in private sector activity, particularly in the manufacturing sector, but the upcoming boost arising from government spending should lift growth during 2025.

The MPC noted that weaker growth reflects both slower demand and supply; the household saving ratio remains elevated and consumer confidence is low, while business investment is being held back by rising employment costs and global uncertainties.

Private sector wage growth and services inflation remain elevated but underlying shorter-term wage pressures have eased and pay growth expectations remain steady just under 4%. Employment has peaked and employment growth is likely to remain weak over the near term.

CPI inflation rates are expected to rise during 2025-26. There are signs that business and household inflation expectations are already rising, possibly related

to rising food prices or fears around global trade wars, prompting a more hawkish attitude from the MPC.

Bond yields have been relatively volatile but have generally tracked upwards due to uncertainty and possible inflationary effects arising from the new US administration's fiscal, trade and foreign policy. One of the outcomes of US policy is a need for increased European defence spending, which is likely to lead to stronger growth and higher bond issuance.

The UK government is also facing fiscal credibility issues, with weaker growth forecasts and higher borrowing costs increasing the need for remedial fiscal policy, supporting an economy struggling to expand and counterbalancing rising inflation, amid increasing uncertainties due to fiscal and political uncertainty.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**NIGEL SMITH, GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Regulation 26.2 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires the Chief Finance Officer to develop, maintain and implement the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy. The Policy should be reviewed on a regular basis.**
Executive Summary:	**The Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy was last updated in January 2019 and approved by Cabinet on 19 February 2019. The policy should be regularly reviewed and updated and, as such, was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 19 June 2025. A few changes were requested, which have been incorporated into the updated Policy, and it is now presented to Cabinet for approval.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy (**Appendix A**) to Cabinet for approval.

2. Background

2.1 The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is kept up to date. The last update was in February 2019. The revised Policy was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 19 June 2025, and was endorsed subject to a few additional changes.

2.2 The council in carrying out its functions and responsibilities encourages a culture of openness and fairness and expects Elected Members and employees at all levels to adopt the highest standards of propriety and accountability. The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy recognises that the council as a large organisation is at risk of loss due to fraud, bribery and corruption from both within the Council and outside it. The Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy seeks to:

- maintain and promote a **zero-tolerance** culture to fraud and corruption
- **safeguard public money** by reducing losses from fraud and corruption to an absolute minimum by taking practical, risk-informed steps and maintaining a strong deterrent
- encourage **prevention** and promote **detection** and effective investigation of suspected fraud or corruption and take robust action against those found to be committing any such acts
- place confidence in Bridgend County Borough Council and its work by ensuring we act and are seen to **act with integrity**

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The Council has in place policies on Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption, Anti-tax evasion and Anti-Money Laundering. These provide effective arrangements to prevent and detect acts of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption along with Money Laundering which are monitored and reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

3.2 The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy specifically addresses the three areas of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption outlining the procedures to be followed should any such events occur or be suspected along with the actions that may be taken. Cabinet last approved the Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy on 19 February 2019. The current review has made several minor amendments and updates, to include the element of corruption, reflect current legislation and to improve the content relating to actions that could be undertaken. The revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy is attached as **Appendix A.** The policy was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 19 June 2025 who requested a few amendments which have been now reflected in the version presented.

3.3 This policy is supplementary to the Council's wider Fraud Strategy and Framework which sets out the key responsibilities with regard to fraud prevention and what to do if fraud or financial irregularity is suspected and the action that will be taken by management.

3.4 The policy will be reviewed and updated every two years in line with the Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- **Long Term** — The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy, Procedure and Reporting Arrangements will assist in the long term to support officers and Members in the successful execution of their duties by meeting the legal obligations during business activities.
- **Prevention** — The purpose of the procedure is to prevent Fraud, Bribery and Corruption and to report it where it is suspected.
- **Integration** — The outcomes that the procedure supports is that implementation of the policy will help in the prevention of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption.
- **Collaboration** — All members and staff are obliged to follow this policy.
- **Involvement** — The persons mainly involved in the procedure will be Bridgend County Borough Council staff.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The climate change and nature implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy at **Appendix A**.

Background documents

None

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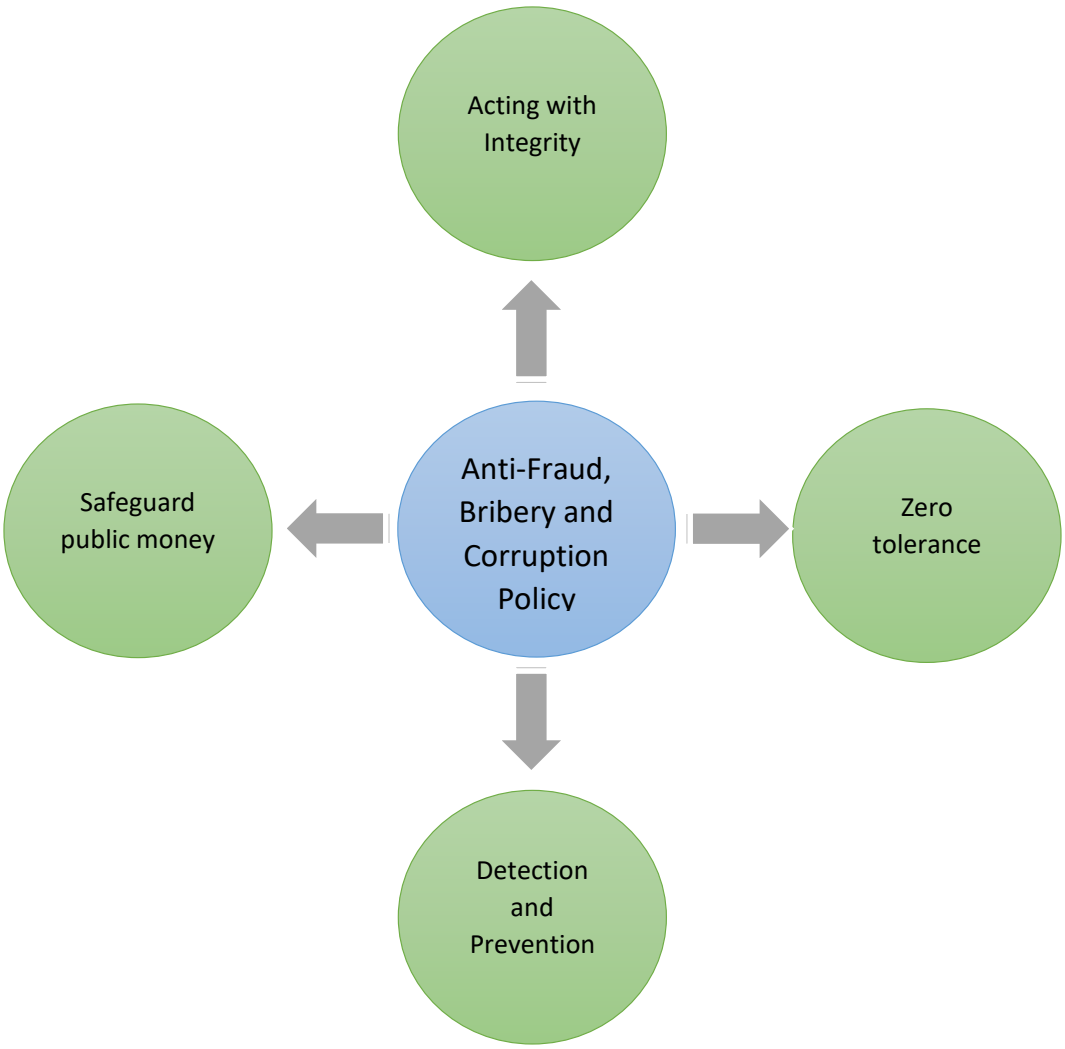
Appendix A

ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY & CORRUPTION POLICY



July 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In carrying out its functions and responsibilities, the Council encourages a culture of openness and fairness and expects Elected Members and employees at all levels to adopt the highest standards of propriety and accountability.

1.2 The Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy recognises that the Council as a large organisation is at risk of loss due to fraud and corruption both from within the Council and outside it. In adopting this Policy, the Council seeks to demonstrate clearly that it is firmly committed to dealing with fraud, corruption and bribery and will deal equally with perpetrators from inside (Members and employees) and outside the Council. In addition, there will be no distinction made in investigation and action between cases that generate financial benefit and those that do not.

1.3 This Policy is one element of a wider set of arrangements in place to prevent fraud and wrongdoing which includes its Code of Corporate Governance and the Council's wider polices as set out in Section 3.

1.4 In meeting the Council's responsibilities relating to fraud and corruption, whether attempted internally or externally, the outcomes sought from the Council's Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy are to:

- maintain and promote a **zero-tolerance** culture to fraud and corruption
- **safeguard public money** by reducing losses from fraud and corruption to an absolute minimum by taking practical, risk-informed steps and maintaining a strong deterrent
- encourage **prevention** and promote **detection** and effective investigation of suspected fraud or corruption and take robust action against those found to be committing any such acts
- place confidence in Bridgend County Borough Council and its work by ensuring we act and are seen to **act with integrity**

1.5 There is an expectation and requirement that all Members, employees, consultants, contractors, and service users be fair and honest, and if able to do so, provide help, information and support to assist investigations of fraud and corruption.

1.6 The Council is aware of the high degree of external scrutiny of its affairs by a variety of bodies, including those listed below. These bodies are important in highlighting any areas where improvements can be made.

- Public Services Ombudsman.
- Wales Audit Office (WAO). As part of their statutory duties, WAO is required to ensure that the Council has in place adequate arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- Council Tax Payers – via the annual Inspection of the Statement of Accounts.
- HM Revenues & Customs.
- Department for Works & Pensions.
- The Criminal Justice System.

1.7 The areas where there is potential for fraud and corruption will be periodically reviewed, and Internal Audit plans will focus on areas of greatest risk. The relative assessed levels of risk are set out in the Fraud Risk Wheel (see Appendix A).

2 DEFINITIONS

Fraud

2.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) defines fraud as "Any intentional false representation, including failure to declare information or abuse of position that is carried out to make gain, cause loss or expose another to the risk of loss". In the UK, the term fraud is used to describe many acts such as deception, forgery, extortion, theft, conspiracy, embezzlement and false representation. The Fraud Act 2006 came into force on 15 January 2006, and remains the primary legislation. The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) 2023 also added a new corporate offence being "failure to prevent fraud" which will come into force on 1st September 2025.

2.2 Section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006 introduces a general offence of fraud and three ways of committing it:

.

- Fraud by false representation (Section 2 of the Act).
- Fraud by failing to disclose information (Section 3 of the Act).
- Fraud by abuse of position (Section 4 of the Act).

The (ECCTA) will be introduced over the next 2 years introducing more power to Companies House over UK entities. However it will also impact the Council in what procedures are in place. It holds large organisations accountable for failing to prevent fraud committed by their employees, agents, contractors or other "associated persons" acting for the organisations benefit, whether directly or indirectly. Non-compliance can lead to unlimited fines, legal exposure and reputational damage.

2.3 The 3 ways described above all require dishonesty and an intent to make gain or cause loss as well as by making the representation knowing that it is or might be false or misleading; failing to disclose information where there is a legal duty to do so; and abuse of a position where one is expected to safeguard another person's financial interests.

2.4 Fraud, for the purposes of this policy, goes beyond the Act and includes theft, forgery, concealment, conspiracy and bribery. Fraud may include, but is not limited to, stealing cash or equipment, submitting false expense claims, invoicing for goods not intended for Council business, unauthorised removal of Council property, manipulating accounts and records, dishonest contract arrangement and other financial irregularities.

Bribery

2.5 The Bribery Act 2010 came into force on 1 July 2011. It reforms the criminal law to provide a new scheme of bribery offences and it provides a more effective legal framework to combat bribery. The Act creates the following offences relevant to the Council:-

- offering, promising or giving a bribe (active bribery)
- requesting, receiving or agreeing to accept a bribe (passive bribery)

Furthermore, if the offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a senior officer of the organisation, then the senior officer may be personally liable.

Corruption

2.6 Corruption is broadly defined as the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain. It can include:

- public servants demanding or taking money or favours in exchange for services
- misusing public money or granting public jobs or contracts to friends and families
- corporations bribing officials to get lucrative deals.

Money Laundering

2.7 Money laundering is a term applied to "possessing or in any way dealing with or concealing the proceeds of any crime", in essence, any method used to convert or exchange money or assets obtained from criminal activity into money or assets that are "clean", in such a way that the "clean" money can no longer be linked back to the criminal activity. Whilst the risk of money laundering to the Council is relatively low the Council has in place an Anti-money Laundering Policy which sets out the responsibilities of Members and employees to prevent the Council being subject to any money laundering practices. This Policy supports all staff in complying with the money laundering provisions included within the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and the Terrorism Act 2006.

3 RULES AND PROCEDURES

3.1 The Council has rules and procedures to ensure that its day to day operations and activities are properly controlled and these are an important part of the internal control framework.

3.2 These include:

- The Council's Constitution, which includes: .
  - Financial Procedure Rules (Part 4).
  - Contract Procedure Rules (Part 4).
  - Code of Conduct for Members including declarations of interest (Part 5).
  - Code of Conduct for Council Employees (Part 5).
- The Code of Corporate Governance
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.
- ICT Code of Conduct.
- Scheme of Delegation.
- Whistleblowing Policy.
- Anti-Money Laundering Policy.
- Equal Opportunities Policy.
- Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy
- Effective recruitment and selection procedures.
- Training.

These are under-pinned by the following legislation:

- Fraud Act 2006.

- Bribery Act 2010.
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
- Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- Data Protection Act 2018 (which enshrines the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) into British Law).
- Human Rights Act 1998.

3.3 Failure to comply with these rules and procedures may result in formal action being taken. In the case of employees this would be through the Council's disciplinary procedures and for Members would involve the Council's Standards Committee, which hears allegations of misconduct by Members.

4 CULTURE

4.1 The Council's culture is one of honesty and zero tolerance to fraud and corruption. The prevention or detection of fraud and corruption and the protection of public money are everyone's responsibility.

4.2 There is an expectation and requirement that all individuals, businesses and organisations dealing in any way with the Council will act with high standards of probity, openness and integrity and that Council employees or its agent(s) at all levels will lead by example in these matters.

4.3 The Council's Elected Members and employees play a crucial role in creating and maintaining this culture. The Council aims to promote an environment in which Members and employees feel able to raise concerns without fear of reprisals and confident that their concerns will be thoroughly investigated. Staff who blow the whistle are protected: they will not suffer detriment or be dismissed provided the concern was raised in good faith. Members and employees are positively encouraged to raise concerns regarding fraud, bribery and corruption, irrespective of seniority, rank or status, in the knowledge that such concerns will be treated in confidence.

4.4 Concerns must be raised when Members or employees reasonably believe that one or more of the following has occurred, is in the process of occurring, or is likely to occur:

- a criminal offence
- a failure to comply with a statutory or legal obligation
- improper unauthorised use of public or other funds
- a miscarriage of justice
- maladministration, misconduct or malpractice
- endangering of an individual's health and safety
- damage to the environment
- deliberate concealment of any of the above.

4.5 As explained in the Council's Whistleblowing Policy, suspected instances of fraud can be reported to:

- Line managers
- Section 151 Officer
- Head of Regional Internal Audit Service
- Monitoring Officer

- Directors
- Chief Executive

4.6 The Council will ensure that any allegations received in any way, including by anonymous letters or phone calls, will be taken seriously and investigated in an appropriate manner.

4.7 The Council will deal firmly with those who defraud the Council, or who are corrupt, or where there has been financial malpractice. There is a need to ensure that any investigation process is not misused and, therefore, any abuse (such as employees raising malicious allegations) may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

4.8 Where fraud has been found to have occurred, even if it has not translated to financial loss, the council may take action in the following ways:-

- Take disciplinary action against the employee, possibly leading to the termination of employment.
- Report the matter to police.
- Use of the Proceeds of Crime Act where appropriate to maximise the penalty and level off the recovery by the Council.
- Cease to use / cancel any contracts relating to companies who have acted in a fraudulent manner.
- Removal of allowance such as grants, blue badges, single personal discount for council tax.
- Take legal action against the person(s) involved to recover any funds lost.
- Lead to the forfeiture of pension rights following an offence of fraudulent character or grave misconduct in connection with their employment.
- Reporting to the media any action taken relating to acts of impropriety, subject to the usual restrictions on reporting legal procedures.

For any losses due to fraud over £25,000 which are unable to be recovered from the parties involved, the council may refer to its insurers who will indemnify against the following in line with the terms of the policy.

- Employee fraud
- Money orders and counterfeit paper currency.
- Depositor's forgery
- Third party computer fraud and funds transfer fraud.
- Credit Card forgery
- Incoming Cheque forgery.

4.9 When fraud or corruption has occurred because of a breakdown or weakness in the Council's systems or procedures, Directors will ensure that appropriate improvements in systems of control are implemented to prevent a reoccurrence.

4.10 Elected Members, Independent Lay Members and employees must ensure that they avoid situations where there is a potential for a conflict of interest. Effective role separation will ensure decisions made are seen to be based upon impartial advice and avoid questions about improper disclosure of confidential information.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PREVENTION OF FRAUD

The Role of Elected Members

5.1 As elected representatives, all Members have a duty to citizens to protect the Council from all forms of abuse and protect public monies. This is done through compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules, the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy and other relevant Policies and legislation.

The Council's Code of Conduct for Members sets out an approach to work that is honest, fair, accountable and, as far as possible, transparent. Members are required to declare the receipt of all gifts and hospitality in a Register maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

5.2 Members sign that they have read and understood the Members' Code of Conduct when they take office. These conduct and ethical matters are specifically brought to the attention of Members during induction and include the declaration and registration of interests. It is also a mandatory requirement that Members (and Chief Officers) formally report and sign and annual declaration of 'Related Party Transactions' to ensure that they declare any relationship with other organisations with which the Council interacts. The Monitoring Officer advises Members of new legislative or procedural requirements.

The Role of the Monitoring Officer

5.3 The Monitoring Officer has responsibility for:

- the lawfulness and fairness of decision making
- ensuring that Elected Members are aware of the protocols, policies and procedures, as set out at the end of this policy that apply when carrying out their duties
- jointly initiating action if fraud, bribery or corruption may have been identified along with the Section 151 Officer

The Role of the Section 151 Officer

5.4 The Section 151 Officer has responsibility for:

- the proper administration of the council's financial affairs under s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and s.114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended. This includes the employee nominated by them to act in their absence and any employee of their staff acting on their behalf
- reporting to Councillors and the Wales Audit Office if either the Council, or one of its representatives makes, or is about to make a decision which is unlawful, or involves illegal expenditure or potential financial loss (Local Government Finance Act 1988 s.114)
- ensuring that this Policy is current
- jointly initiating action if fraud, bribery or corruption may have been identified along with the Monitoring Officer.

The Role of Managers

5.5 Managers at all levels are responsible for the communication and implementation of the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy in their work area. They are also responsible for ensuring that their employees are aware of all of the Council's policies, procedure rules (as detailed in 3.2 above), and that the requirements of each are being met in their everyday business activities. They are required to ensure that their staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding the resources for which they are responsible and for reporting suspected irregularities.

5.6 Managers are expected to create an environment in which their staff feels able to approach them with any concerns they may have about suspected irregularities.

5.7 The Council recognises that a key preventative measure in dealing with fraud and corruption is for managers to take effective steps at the recruitment stage to establish, as far as possible, the honesty and integrity of potential employees, whether for permanent, temporary or casual posts. The Council's Strategic Equality Plan will be adhered to during this process.

5.8 The Council has a formal recruitment procedure, which contains appropriate safeguards on matters such as written references and verifying qualifications held. Applicants complete an application form and must declare any criminal convictions that are not spent. Where appropriate, applicants may also be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

5.9 The Council's disciplinary procedures apply to all employees.

The Role of Individual Employees

5.10 Each employee is governed in their work by the Council's procedure rules, as detailed in Part 4 of the Constitution, and other codes of conduct and policies (e.g. Health and Safety, Disciplinary Policy, ICT Code of Conduct). They are also governed by the Code of Conduct for Council employees. Included in these are guidelines on gifts and hospitality and codes of conduct associated with professional and personal conduct and conflicts of interest. These are issued to all employees when they join the authority or will be provided by their manager. Also employees are expected to follow any Code of Conduct related to their membership of a professional institute.

5.11 Employees are responsible for ensuring that they follow the instructions given to them by management, particularly in relation to the safekeeping of Council assets. These will be included in induction training and procedure manuals.

5.12 The Council has a protocol on secondary employment for employees. The purpose of this is to safeguard both the Council and employees' interests in recognising that some employees may wish to undertake secondary employment whilst being required to provide the highest standards of service to our customers. These could be affected if an employee were to have secondary employment which conflicted with their Council work.

5.13 Employees must operate within Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 regarding the disclosure of financial interests in contracts relating to the Council, or the non-acceptance of any fees, gifts, hospitality or any other rewards, other than their proper remuneration. Further information is available from the Monitoring Officer.

5.14 Employees are expected always to be aware of the possibility that fraud, corruption or theft may exist in the workplace and be able to share their concerns with management. If for any reason, they feel unable to speak to their manager they must refer the matter to one of those

named in paragraph 4.5 above. Failing this, employees can, if necessary, raise concerns anonymously (by letter or phone), and via other routes, in accordance with the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

The Role of Committees

5.15 The Standards Committee includes amongst its roles and functions the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members, assisting Members to observe the Member's Code of Conduct and the monitoring and operation of it. It also considers reports submitted by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, the Monitoring Officer or any other representations relating to alleged breaches of the Code. The Committee also monitors the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing policy.

5.16 The Governance & Audit Committee has to consider, as one of its functions, the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud, bribery and corruption arrangements. It will also monitor this policy. Every year, the Committee receives the Head of Audit's annual opinion report which provides detailed information on the work of the Internal Audit Section and the effectiveness of the overall internal control environment for the Council as a whole.

The Role of Internal Audit

5.17 Internal Audit plays a vital preventative role in trying to ensure that systems and procedures are in place to prevent and detect fraud and corruption. Internal Audit investigates cases of suspected irregularity, with the exception of Council Tax Reduction and Blue Badge fraud investigations - which are undertaken by the Housing Benefits' Fraud Investigator, and Housing Benefit fraud investigations - which are undertaken by the Department for Works and Pensions' (DWP) Single Fraud Investigation Service. Internal Audit liaise with management to recommend changes in procedures to prevent or mitigate losses to the Council.

5.18 Internal Audit alongside the Council's fraud investigation section will keep under review procedures and arrangements to develop and encourage the exchange of information on national and local fraud and corruption activity in relation to Councils with external agencies such as:

- Police.
- Society of Welsh Treasurers.
- Welsh Chief Internal Auditor's Group.
- Wales Audit Office - Audit Wales.
- National Anti-Fraud Network.
- HM Revenues and Customs.
- Welsh LA Investigation Group.
- Department for Work and Pensions.
- Single Fraud Investigation Service.
- Other outside agencies.

The Role of the Council's Fraud Investigation Section

5.19 The Council's Fraud Investigation Section is responsible for all Council Tax Reduction and Blue Badge fraud investigations, in accordance with the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998 and other relevant legislation. In cases where employees are involved, the team will work with Internal Audit, Human Resources and appropriate senior management to ensure that correct procedures are followed and that this Policy is adhered to.

The Role of Audit Wales

5.20 Independent external audit is an essential safeguard in the stewardship of public money. This role is delivered through the carrying out of specific reviews that are designed to test (amongst other things) the adequacy of the Council's financial systems, and arrangements for preventing and detecting fraud and corruption. It is not the external auditor's function to prevent fraud and irregularity, but the integrity of public funds is at all times a matter of general concern. External auditors are always alert to the possibility of fraud and irregularity, and will act without undue delay if grounds for suspicion come to their notice. The external auditor has a responsibility to review the Council's arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and irregularity, and arrangements designed to limit the opportunity for corrupt practices.

6 DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION OF FRAUD

6.1 The preventative measures described in the previous section significantly reduce the risk of fraud and corruption but cannot eliminate it entirely. Financial Procedure Rules require Corporate Directors to be responsible for the accountability of employees, and the security, custody and control of all other resources including plant, buildings, materials, cash and stores appertaining to their individual Directorates in accordance with the procedures agreed with the Council's Section 151 Officer. If a Corporate Director suspects any irregularities concerning cash, inventories or other property of the Council or held on trust by the Council, the Corporate Director concerned will notify the Section 151 Officer immediately, who will take such steps as considered necessary by way of investigation and report.

6.2 Internal Audit plays an important role in the detection of fraud and corruption. Included in the Audit Plan are reviews of system financial controls and specific fraud and corruption tests, spot checks and unannounced visits. Any decision to refer a matter to the Police will be taken by the Head of Audit. Internal Audit may also seek informal advice from the Police in the early stages of an investigation. Care will be taken to ensure that internal disciplinary procedures are followed but do not prejudice any criminal case.

6.3 In addition to Internal Audit, there are numerous systems controls in place to deter fraud, bribery and corruption, but it is often the vigilance of employees and members of the public that aids detection. The Council's Whistleblowing Policy is intended to encourage and enable staff to raise serious concerns. Employees reporting concerns in this way are afforded certain rights under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. All employees can raise their concerns under this policy, as well as contractors working for the Council (e.g. agency staff, builders etc.) and the voluntary sector. This would normally be with the immediate line manager. However, if the concerns are so serious or sensitive then they should be raised with a Chief Officer, for example a Director, the Chief Executive Officer, Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer, or the Head of Audit. This Policy also applies to suppliers of goods and services under a contract. However, this policy is not available for use by members of the public who should instead use the Corporate Complaint's Policy.

6.4 Within the Council's Constitution, Members and employees shall comply with the requirements of Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Bribery Act 2010, and

the Members' and Employees' Codes of Conduct in respect of the declaration of interests in contracts. Such interests must be declared to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion in the appropriate registers. All are required to give notice in writing of pecuniary (financial) interests in contracts relating to the Council or the offer of any fees or rewards other than their proper remuneration. All employees must declare any offers of gifts or hospitality above a value of £25, which are in any way related to the performance of their duties.

6.5 Theft, fraud, bribery and corruption are serious offences against the Council and employees will face disciplinary action if the outcome of an investigation indicates improper behaviour by an employee. Depending on the circumstances of each individual case, criminal proceedings may also be instigated.

6.6 Members will face appropriate action if they are found to have been involved in theft, fraud or corruption against the Council. Appropriate action will be taken including referring the matter to the Monitoring Officer and/or the Public Ombudsman for Wales. Depending on the circumstances of each individual case, criminal proceedings may also be instigated.

7 TRAINING AND AWARENESS

7.1 The Council recognises that an important aspect of its Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy is the general awareness and responsiveness of employees throughout the Council. To facilitate this, the Council supports induction and training, particularly for employees involved in internal control systems. All employees are made aware of the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy via various channels of communication e.g. team meetings and the Intranet.

7.2 In addition the Council will seek via appropriate publicity to increase and maintain the general public awareness of the facilities available to report concerns about fraud, bribery and corruption.

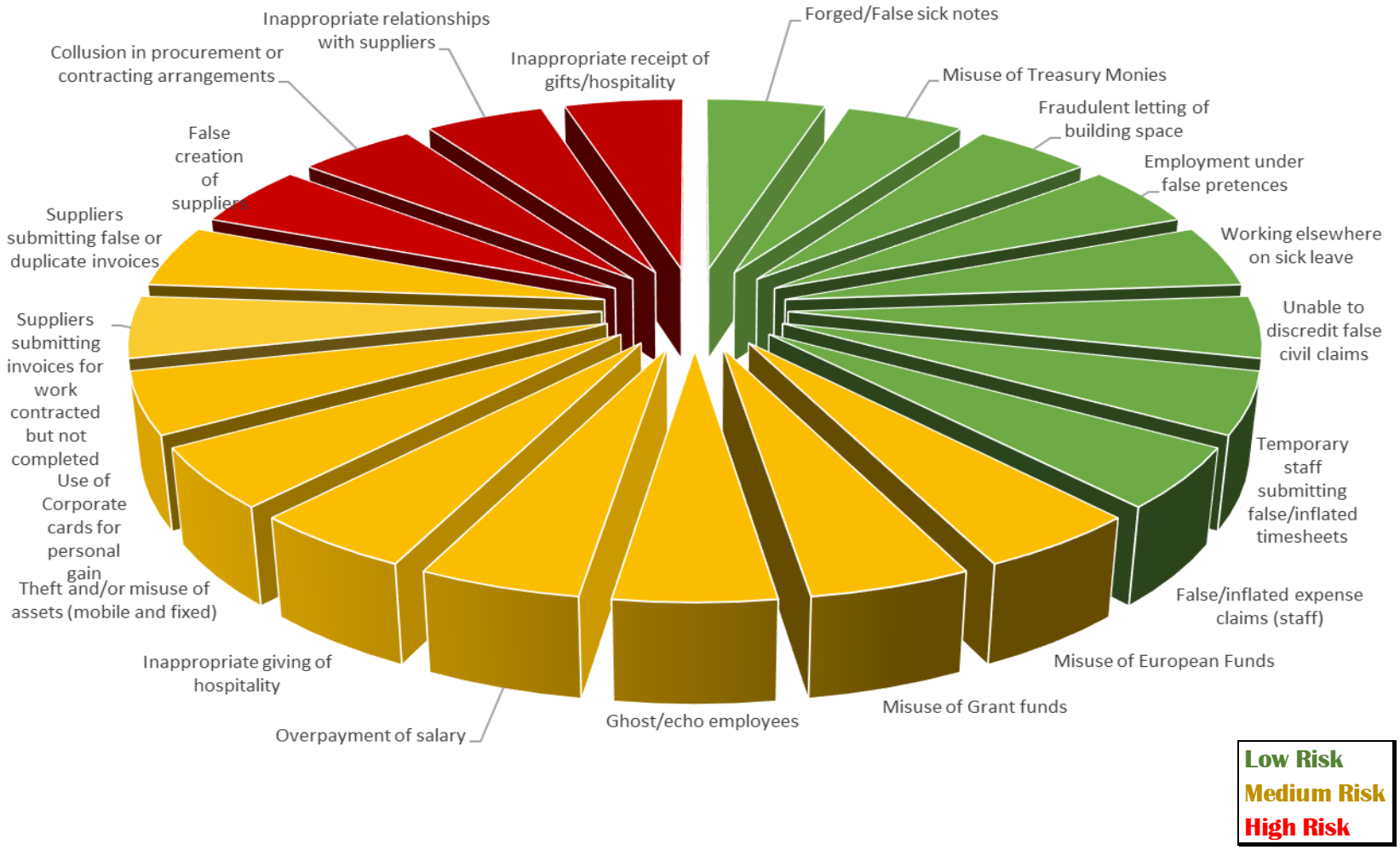
7.3 The investigation of fraud, bribery and corruption is carried out in consultation with the relevant Council service area by the Council's Internal Audit Team whose skill base in investigative techniques is maintained by appropriate training. Staff within the Council's Fraud Investigation Section and Regulatory Service receives specific training on fraud, bribery and corruption and the Fraud Act to help support their work on financial investigations.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 The Council sets high standards, with core values of accountability and openness.

8.2 The Council will maintain a continuous review of all systems and procedures through its Internal Audit Plan and responding to recommendations from external regulators. The Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy and its effectiveness will be periodically reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

Appendix A : Fraud risk wheel



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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2025**
Report Title:	**BRIDGEND SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**RYAN JONES STRATEGIC HOUSING COMMISSIONING MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**This report seeks approval to begin a period of public consultation with a view to adopting a new Social Housing Allocation Policy. There is no other effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**Bridgend County Borough Councils (BCBC) current Social Housing Allocation Policy was implemented in 2017. Since this time there have been several changes which have impacted the Policy and the pressure on social housing demands. A review of the current Policy has taken place, following which a new draft Social Housing Allocation Policy has been developed. This report summarises the findings from the review, the proposed changes and seeks approval from Cabinet to begin a period of public consultation on the new Policy.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to go out to public consultation on a revised Social Housing Allocation Policy.

2. Background

2.1 In December 2023 Cabinet approved a Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026 and associated Action Plan. A key commitment within the Action Plan is to review, appraise and amend if required the Council's Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP), taking into consideration the views of key stakeholders.

2.2 The Council manages applications to and allocations from the Common Housing Register. Bridgend's SHAP sets out how the Council and its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners manage applications and allocate the majority of social housing within the county borough though the Common Housing Register. The RSLs that operate within Bridgend are Beacon, Hafod, Linc-Cymru, Trivallis, United Welsh, Valleys to Coast (V2C), Wales & West.

2.3 Bridgend's current SHAP was implemented in 2017. Since this time there have been several changes which have impacted the Policy, including legislation changes and increased pressure on the social housing and homelessness systems, which have been highlighted in several reports to Cabinet in recent years.

2.4 To support this work an independent consultant, HICO was commissioned to undertake a review of the current SHAP. This offered impartiality in the review process.

2.5 HICO's brief was to review and analyse data on current allocations, waiting times, application numbers and outcomes. They were also asked to consider the strategic context in relation to relevant legislation and guidance, the Council's responsibilities and to engage with RSL partners as well as wider agencies and stakeholders.

2.6 HICO have undertaken a desktop review of current arrangements, data analysis and review of practice and policy in Wales, seeking out best practice examples elsewhere. They also undertook interviews with stakeholders, including one to one and group interviews with internal and external stakeholders. An online survey was conducted with people who were currently or had recently been on the Council's Common Housing Register. The list of stakeholders engaged with as part of the review is below:

BCBC

- BCBC Housing Department
- BCBC Social Services
- BCBC Cabinet Members

RSLs

- Valleys to Coast (V2C)
- Wales & West Housing Association
- Linc Cymru
- Hafod
- Coastal Housing Association (now known as Beacon Cymru Group)

Housing Support Providers

- The Wallich
- Adferiad
- Shelter Cymru
- Goleudy
- Pobl
- Llamau

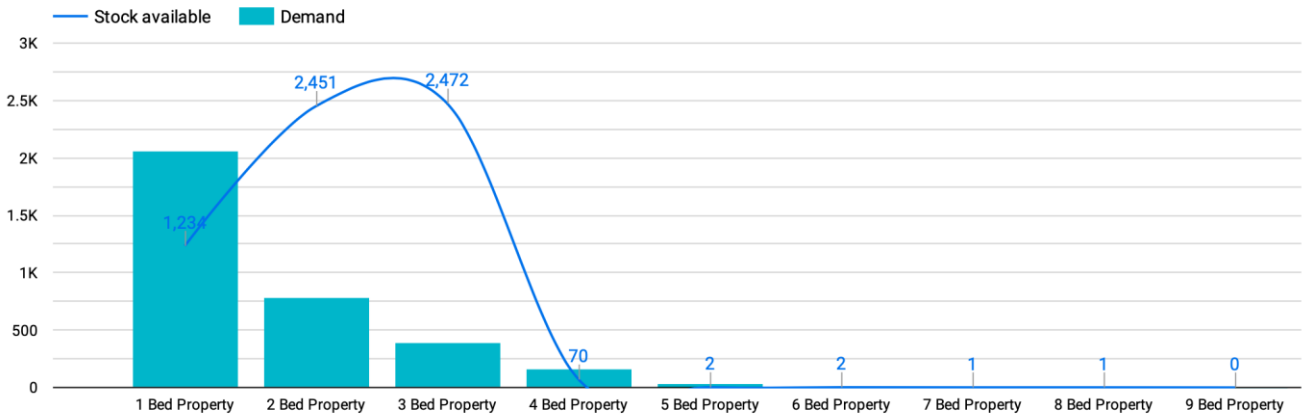
Service Users

- Individuals requiring adapted accommodation
- Those in supported housing
- General applicants to the Common Housing Register

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 A review of the current SHAP has concluded. The key findings from the review are highlighted below:

- There are currently 3,300 households on the Common Housing Register. There is a disparity between demand and stock for all bedroom sizes. As can be seen in the chart below the disparity is significantly greater for 1-bedroom properties and 4-bedroom properties.



- Those waiting for 1 and 4 bedroom properties face the longest waits.

- There is a high demand for ground floor, accessible homes and also for larger homes, with stock of 5 to 8 bedrooms being almost non-existent.

- Stock shortages, particularly in more sought after areas such as Brackla and Porthcawl force applicants to be housed outside of their preferred area of choice.

- Due to the pressure on the register and those assessed as having an urgent need to move those in lower bands face prolonged delays. Demand is so much so that households in Band C, a band currently utilised for those in no housing need are not likely to receive an offer of accommodation.

- There is a need to combine a Rapid Rehousing approach into the Common Housing Register, to encourage prevention without incentivising homelessness.

- There are delays in moving individuals out of supported accommodation, resulting in bed blocking and inefficiencies within the system. This is the case for both care

leavers and individuals in wider supported accommodation services. Individuals with restricted areas of choice on their applications can exacerbate these delays.

- The current exclusions and arrears policy needs to be updated, including with consideration to a clear income and savings threshold to guide eligibility for social housing.

3.2 Following consideration of the review, including the key findings detailed above a new draft Social Housing Allocation Policy has been developed and attached at **Appendix 1**. This Policy has been written to comply with the legal requirements of the Housing Act 1996, Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Welsh Government's Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness.

3.3 In adopting a new Policy it should be noted that there is a significant shortage of available social housing relative to the demand. As such the Policy looks to prioritise housing for individuals who are in the greatest housing need. The Policy looks to adopt a balance of supporting sustainable communities and enabling individuals to express choice, whilst ensuring those in the most need are housed as quickly and as suitably as a possible, acknowledging significant constraints within the system.

3.4 Whilst the full draft Policy is attached at **Appendix 1** key proposed changes to the current SHAP are detailed below:

- To encourage best use of existing stock those willing to move on from high demand properties, including accessible homes, 1 bedroom property's and 4-bedroom property's will be added to the Priority Band.

- All households threatened with or experiencing homelessness, including those in temporary accommodation will be added to Band A. This will support homelessness prevention and through flow through temporary accommodation, whilst balancing the need of other households, not incentivising homelessness.

- Those in supported accommodation and care experienced children looking to move on from a care placement will be added to Band A. For these cases the Council will have the flexibility to make an offer of suitable accommodation in any within the borough. This will support through flow in supported accommodation, helping to ensure valuable resource is available for those in need.

- Where a care leaver in a care or supported accommodation placement requires accommodation, which would result in the alleviation of wider intensive agency input they will be added to the Priority Band. This will support the Council's Corporate Parenting agenda and ensure best use of resources.

- The terms of exclusion from the Common Housing Register are updated to ensure applicants are not unfairly and disproportionately penalised for past behaviour. Exclusion on the basis of former tenant debt / rent arrears will move to time based approach e.g. 8 weeks, rather than an arbitrary sum. This will enable different circumstances to be taken into account and ensure this area of the Policy is not adversely impacted by inflation.

- To ensure social housing is there for those in the most need an income and asset threshold criteria has been added meaning that single applicants or couples with a gross income exceeding £35,000 or savings / assets over £30,000 or families with a gross income exceeding £60,000 or savings / assets over £30,000 will not be eligible to join the Common Housing Register. Similarly, those who own a share of 50% or more in a residential property will not be eligible. Discretion may be applied in cases where strict adherence to these thresholds would unjustly disadvantage individuals.

- To ensure that social housing is exclusively for those in housing need and in acknowledgment that those added to the register with no housing need will likely never receive an offer of accommodation Band C to be removed.

3.5 As highlighted in Section 2 of this report a substantial amount of engagement with key stakeholders has already taken place in undertaking a review of the current Policy. Discussions have been held with many of the key stakeholders when formulating the new draft SHAP. It is now proposed that a wider, public consultation on the draft Strategy is carried out over a period of 12 weeks to ensure that members of the public, are able to formally put forward their views as well as any stakeholders or organisations who have an interest in the issues and proposed Policy.

3.6 As the SHAP is a strategic document, the Council is required to undertake a formal public consultation for a period of 12 weeks, prior to adopting a new Policy. Cabinet is recommended to approve the formal consultation period on the new draft SHAP.

3.7 At the end of the consultation period, responses will be taken into account and necessary amendments made, with a final SHAP being presented to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Ffuture Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The delivery of and best use of social housing contributes to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales – the provision and availability of suitable housing is key to supporting a prosperous Wales by reducing cost to the public purse. Individuals in suitable housing are more likely to achieve wider prosperity through other areas in their lives.
- A resilient Wales – our draft SHAP aims to ensure best use of a limited resource increasing the resilience of both individuals supported and the general structures in place to support the goal of achieving a position where homelessness in Wales is rare, brief and non-recurrent and individuals are accommodated in good quality and suitable accommodation.

- A Wales of cohesive communities – the draft SHAP looks to achieve cohesive communities through housing allocations which ensure those in most need are supported, whilst balancing the need of sustainable communities.
- A globally responsive Wales – suitable housing is an issue across the globe. The draft SHAP is a strategic document, which sets out the approach Bridgend will take to support Wales in in efforts around this agenda.

5.2 It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The provision of suitable housing supports the agenda around climate change and nature. The Council's SHAP will help to make best use of a valuable and limited resource. The Common Housing Register helps to inform and shape the development of new housing schemes which will be developed in line with Welsh Government planning and standards requirements, which support moves to tackle climate change.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The provision of suitable housing is a key element is the Councils responsibilities as a Corporate Parent. The draft SHAP sets out ways in which care experienced children and care leavers will be supported to secure accommodation via the Common Housing Register, if this is deemed to be most appropriate solution for the individual.

7.2 The new draft Policy looks to implement changes which will support the Council in its wider Corporate Parenting responsibilities, through supporting through flow and best use of resources in relation to available care and supported accommodation placements.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The cost of the public consultation and measures required to mobilise and implement a new SHAP will be met from existing budgets.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Consider the SHAP (**Appendix 1**);
- approve a 12 week public consultation on the revised SHAP **(Appendix 1);**
- note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the public consultation and seeking approval of the final SHAP prior to formal adoption.

Background documents

Bridgend Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026

Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Bridgend Social Housing Allocation Policy

2025

The Council's contact details are:

Housing & Community Regeneration Civic Offices

Angel Street
Bridgend CF31
4WB

E-mail: housing@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 01656 643643

Put 18001 before any of our telephone numbers for the text relay service SMS Messaging (for deaf/hard of hearing applicants): 07581 157014

Fax: 01656 668126

This Policy is available in other formats e.g. in large print or in Welsh.

2025
Bridgend Social Housing Allocation Policy

1.0 General Principles

1.1. This Allocation Policy sets out how Bridgend County Borough Council (the Council) and its Housing Association Partners allocate the majority of social housing within the county Borough. The Housing Associations that operate within the Bridgend County Borough are Beacon, Hafod, Linc-Cymru, Trivallis, United Welsh, Valleys to Coast (V2C), Wales & West.

1.2. These organisations, together with the Council are referred to collectively as the 'Partners' throughout this document.

1.3. The table below shows the percentage of vacancies of social rented housing allocated through this Policy:

Housing Association	% of Vacancies
Beacon	100
Hafod	100
Linc-Cymru	100
Trivallis	100
United Welsh	100
Valleys to Coast	75
Wales & West	100

Valleys to Coast may allocate up to 25% of their vacancies through their own allocation policy.

1.4. This Policy sets out how Partners manage applications from existing tenants wishing to transfer to other social housing providers. It does not cover mutual exchanges or internal transfers made for management purposes.

1.5. The Partners are committed to the principles of equality and non-discrimination. All applicants will be treated fairly and in accordance with equal opportunities legislation and good practice.

1.6. This Policy recognises the significant shortage of available social housing relative to the growing level of demand. The limited availability of social housing necessitates prioritising housing for applicants who demonstrate the greatest housing need. Consequently, this policy is specifically designed to ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation process, ensuring that social housing resources are effectively targeted towards supporting those most in need.

1.7. The aim of the Policy is to balance prioritising those in greatest need and ensuring that there are opportunities for re-housing for those who require it. It is designed to reflect a range of need factors and enable applicants to clearly understand their prospects for re-housing given their needs, circumstances and preferences.

1.8. This Policy has been written to comply with the legal requirements of the Housing Act 1996, Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Welsh Government's Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness.

1.9. The Council appreciates the importance of offering applicants as much choice as possible regarding their housing options. This supports the development of sustainable communities and enables individuals to express personal preferences. However, given current pressures on stock, the ability of the Council and its Partners to accommodate these preferences may be significantly constrained.

1.10. Where the Council owes a statutory homelessness duty under section 66, 73 and 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, or an applicant is in supported accommodation, including a care leaver applying directly from a care placement it may make an offer of suitable accommodation in any area within the Council's Borough.

1.11. Applicants will be placed in Bands that reflect their level of housing need. Banding determines their priority for re-housing.

1.12. This Policy is based on the following legal and ethical principles:

- A recognition to give reasonable preference to certain groups of people as set out in legislation;
- The principle that social housing properties should be let on the basis of an applicant's housing needs;
- A commitment to transparency by providing clear information to applicants about their rights and the operation of the Policy

1.13. In accordance with Section 167(2) of the Housing Act 1996, reasonable preference for housing must be given to:

- all categories of homeless people (within the meaning of Part 2 of the 2014 Act);
- people who are owed a duty under section 66, 73 or 75 of the 2014 Act;
- people occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing, or otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing condition;
- people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds (including disability-related reasons);
- people who need to move to a particular locality within the Borough where failure to meet that need would cause hardship (to themselves or to others)

1.14. In addition, the Council will give reasonable preference to those applicants in urgent or exceptional circumstances, including (but not limited to):

i. Those owed a homelessness duty as a result of violence or threats of violence likely to be carried out and who as a result require urgent rehousing, including:

- Victims of domestic or other abuse;

- Victims of hate incidents;
- Witnesses of crime or victims of crime who would be at risk of intimidation amounting to violence or threats of violence if they remained in their current homes;

ii. Those who need to move because of urgent medical reasons;
iii. Applicants who suddenly lose their existing home as a result of a disaster e.g. fire or flood;
iv. Applicants who need to move to suitable adapted accommodation because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability which they, or a member of their household, have sustained as a result of service in the Armed Forces;
v. People who need accommodation as a result of leaving the Armed Forces and the loss of military accommodation;
vi. People under-occupying or over-occupying social housing and wanting to transfer to a property of a more appropriate size

1.15. Discretion may be applied in exceptional circumstances where strict application of this Policy would result in undue hardship or unfairness. Any discretionary decisions will be made by a Housing Manager on its merits as regards the urgency of the need for re-housing and recorded in accordance with internal procedures.

1.16. In compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (UK GDPR) no information will be disclosed about an applicant either without their express consent or where disclosure without consent is provided for by the legislation. An applicant is entitled to examine information which is held about them whether the information is held on paper or on a computer database. This may exclude information provided by a third party which may not be disclosed. A single disclosure consent form will be provided to applicants as part of the housing application process and will provide authorisation for information to be shared between the Partners.

1.17. This Policy will be subject to periodic review to ensure it remains legally compliant, fair and responsive to housing needs within the borough.

2.0 Introduction

2.1. Everyone can apply to be considered for housing under this Policy. While anyone may apply, not all applicants will be eligible to join the Housing Register. Eligibility is determined by both legal criteria and local policy, as outlined in this document.

2.2. The Council maintains a Housing Register of housing applicants for itself as well as for its Partners who have chosen to adopt this Policy.

2.3. Due to the significant discrepancy between demand and supply of social housing, the Housing Register is limited to those applicants who are in housing need according to this Policy.

2.4. All applications for housing will be assessed in line with the procedures set out in this Policy. In considering applications, however, the Council must ascertain if an applicant is eligible for accommodation.

2.5. For further details about eligibility and exclusion please refer to Section 3 of this Policy. It should be noted that the law in relation to eligibility is complex and subject to change. The Council and its Partners will provide up to date information on eligibility and exclusions and advice to applicants as part of the application process.

2.6. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all information provided in relation to their housing application is accurate and kept up to date. Applicants must notify the Council of any change in their circumstances that may affect their housing application. Failure to do so may result in:

- incorrect banding;
- delay or cancellation of an offer;
- removal from the Housing Register.

3.0 Eligibility and Exclusions

3.1. The Council and its Partners may allocate housing only to applicants who are eligible under UK law. Eligibility is determined in part by immigration and nationality status. The categories of persons who may be eligible include:

- Existing tenants;
- British Nationals habitually resident in the Common Travel Area;
- European Economic Area Nationals habitually resident in the Common Travel Area;
- Persons subject to immigration control who have been granted one of the following:

i. Refugee status;

ii. Humanitarian Protection;

iii. Discretionary Leave;

iv. Exceptional leave to enter or remain;

v. Indefinite leave to enter or remain;

vi. Status as a former resident of Montserrat who have left that territory because of volcanic eruption;

Exclusion

3.2. The Council has the discretion to treat applicants as ineligible for an allocation of housing on the basis of their unacceptable behaviour (see Appendix One). The Council's use of this sanction will be kept to a minimum. The Council will wherever possible use support mechanisms to maximise opportunities for people to secure social housing.

Arrears

3.3. Where the Council has reason to believe the applicant has rent arrears/former

tenant debt that is equivalent to or more than 8 weeks' rent arrears they will be ineligible to join the register unless they:

- enter into and maintain a repayment plan; and
- make sustained payments for a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks

Once the debt is reduced to below 8 weeks' rent or the repayment plan has been adhered to, at this point, applicants will be eligible. If the debt still remains, they will need to continue making repayments. Any defaults on payment can lead to exclusion from the register.

3.4. Applicants who have met the requirements of their repayment plan or have lowered their debt to less than 8 weeks will need to contact the Council to request a reassessment.

3.5. Where an applicant would otherwise qualify for a Priority banding, or where exceptional circumstances apply, applications with outstanding arrears may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Income and asset thresholds

3.6. Applicants will be ineligible to join the register if they meet the following financial criteria:

- Single applicants or couples requiring one-bedroom accommodation with:
  - a gross household income exceeding £35,000 or
  - savings/assets over £30,000;

- Families or households requiring two or more bedrooms with:
  - a gross household income exceeding £60,000 or
  - savings/assets over £30,000;

- Ownership of a residential property or a significant (50% or more) share in a residential property (domestic or international).

3.7. Discretion may be applied in limited cases where strict adherence to thresholds would disadvantage applicants due to specific circumstances. These may include but are not limited to:

- Medical and disability grounds;
- People in hospital ready for discharge whose property is not suitable;
- Homeowners who are eligible for sheltered or supported accommodation;
- In exceptional circumstances, where a homeowner or person with a financial interest in a property is unable to occupy that property.

Unacceptable Behaviour

3.8. In determining whether an applicant is ineligible due to unacceptable behaviour, the Council will apply the following three-part legal test:

i. Where there is evidence of unacceptable behaviour was it serious enough to have entitled a landlord to obtain a possession order?
ii. Was the behaviour serious enough to render the applicant or a household member unsuitable to be a tenant?
iii. Is the behaviour unacceptable at the time of application?

3.9. Where all three conditions are met, the Council will consider exercising its discretion to decide if the applicant is to be treated as ineligible for an allocation. In reaching its decision, the Council will consider each application on its own merits. Having regard for each applicant's personal circumstances (and the personal circumstances of the applicant's household), including their health and medical needs, dependants and any other factors relevant to the application. A decision to treat an applicant as ineligible must be underpinned by compliance with the law and the Code of Guidance.

3.10. If an applicant who has, in the past, been deemed by the Council and its Partners to be ineligible, now considers their unacceptable behaviour should no longer be held against them as a result of changed circumstances, they can make a fresh application. Unless there has been a considerable lapse of time it will be for the applicant to show that their circumstances or behaviour has changed. What constitutes a considerable lapse of time will depend upon the individual circumstances of the case and in particular the nature of the unacceptable behaviour.

False or Misleading Information

3.11. If an applicant, or someone on the applicant's behalf, knowingly provides false information or withholds information that is relevant to their application for housing (which is a criminal offence under the Housing Act 1996 and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5000) then the applicant may be removed from the Register. The Council will inform the applicant in writing of their removal from the register and the notification will include the reasons for removal and the review procedure.

4.0 Making an Application

4.1. Guidance on how to apply for housing is provided separately on the Council's website, or from the Housing Department directly. This policy sets out the principles that govern application, assessment and allocation.

4.2. An application to join the Housing Register is subject to a housing assessment being completed. The outcome of the housing assessment will take into account the applicant's circumstances, including:

- whether they meet reasonable preference categories (see section 1);
- the suitability of their current housing, including overcrowding (see glossary of terms);
- their specific housing needs.

All relevant additional information provided by the applicant or by other

agencies on the applicant's behalf will be considered during the assessment.

4.3. Following the assessment, applicants will be notified of the outcome. Applicants who are identified as not being in housing need as per the criteria set out in the Bands in section 4.15 of the Policy will be offered housing options advice, including details of any review and complaints process outlined in sections 7 and 8.

4.4. The Council may retain details of applicants who are not eligible for housing allocation but qualify for other forms of accommodation (see section 4.6).

4.5. Applicants may express interest and be offered other forms of accommodation under this Policy to meet their housing need including:

- low-cost home ownership;
- intermediate rented housing;

More information about these housing options can be obtained from the Council and its Partners.

4.6. In order to ensure that the Council is treating all applicants fairly, applicants who are Council Members, Council Employees or a member of their family, Partners' Employees or a member of their family should disclose this fact on any application for housing. These applications will be assessed in the normal way but registrations and any allocation of accommodation will require the approval of a Senior Officer of the Council and will be considered in accordance with the Partner Housing Association's rules.

4.7. Joint applications will be accepted where all parties are eligible. Where one party is ineligible due to immigration status or unacceptable behaviour, the application will be processed as a sole application only.

4.8. Applicants may indicate a preferred area in which they wish to live. However, it is important to note that restricting preferences to a single area significantly reduces the likelihood of being offered accommodation. While preferences will be considered, allocations are dependent on availability and housing need.

4.9. Applicants who are homeless, in supported accommodation, or making an application directly from a care placement will, by default, be considered for all available areas within the Borough to maximise their chances of being offered suitable housing. However, they may choose to opt out of specific areas, provided this is in line with the reasonable offer criteria. (Outlined in 4.18, Offer of Accommodation).

4.10. The date on which the applicant contacts the Council for a housing assessment is the "effective date" of registration. Allocations will normally be taken in effective date order, from the highest Band, subject to the target arrangements.

4.11. Applicants will be required to re-register their housing application annually in order to confirm that they still want to and are eligible to be considered for housing. On the anniversary of their registration date, applicants will be required to renew their application. Applicants will be notified in writing of the arrangements for completing this renewal. Failure to complete the renewal within the time period specified will result in the applicant being removed from the Housing Register**.**

Rapid Rehousing and Housing Allocation Principles

4.12. This policy operates in alignment with the principles of Rapid Rehousing, which aims to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are supported to move into settled housing as quickly as possible, rather than remaining in temporary accommodation for extended periods.

The key principles of Rapid Rehousing are that:

- everyone is considered 'housing ready' with the right support;
- people spend as little time as possible in temporary accommodation;
- people are able to access the right home in the right place for them;
- multi-agency support is made available and tailored to individual needs

4.13. Rapid Rehousing is the default approach for homeless applicants, but allocation decisions will continue to be made within the framework of this Policy.

Banding

Applicants will be placed in one of three Bands depending on their housing need identified through the housing assessment and according to the following criteria:
PRIORITY BAND Those applicants falling within the reasonable preference categories set out in sections 1.12 and 1.13 where the following also apply: • a number of statutory agencies are involved; or • there is a statutory requirement to intervene; or • immediate provision of housing will alleviate intense agency input; or • immediate provision of housing is needed because of a critical medical or welfare need including emergencies • a care leaver in an intensive care or supported accommodation placement requires accommodation, which will result in the alleviation of wider intensive agency input; or • under occupation of social housing and need to transfer to a smaller property in order to avoid loss of tenancy In addition, due to the high demand and limited availability of certain property types, priority will also be given to: • applicants under-occupying four-bedroom or larger properties who desire smaller accommodation; or • households who require two or three-bedroom properties who are occupying a one-bedroom property • applicants occupying an adapted or accessible (e.g. ground floor or with a wet room, wheelchair accessible etc.) property that is no longer required for their needs.

BAND A

Those applicants assessed as having urgent housing need who:

- have an urgent need to move because of your disability and the need for an adapted property; or
- owed a homeless duty under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- need to move on from supported housing; or
- need to move because of urgent medical or hardship reasons; or
- need to move to suitable adapted accommodation because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability which they, or a member of their household has sustained as a result of service in the Armed Forces; or
- need accommodation as a result of leaving the Armed Forces and the loss of military accommodation; or
- are under occupying social housing and want to transfer to a smaller property in order to avoid financial hardship; or
- are 16-25 and need to move on from a care placement

BAND B

Those applicants assessed as having non urgent housing need who:

- need to move for medical or hardship reasons; or
- need to move because of overcrowding conditions or insanitary conditions; or
- need to move because they are disabled and their property is not suitable and cannot be easily adapted; or
- are homeless but do not qualify for Priority Cases or Band A.(for example, those who are homeless but not owed a duty by the council); or
- need to move for reasons of employment, meeting needs in the local area; or
- meet the criteria set out in these Bandings but they have no local connection with the area (individuals applying immediately upon leaving the Armed Forces or care experienced children / care leavers aged 16-25 for whom Bridgend is their corporate parent will not have to meet a local connection criteria);

4.14. An applicant will normally remain in the allotted Band until an offer of housing is made, except in the following circumstances:

4.14.1. A material change in circumstances requires re-banding. If promoted to a higher Band, the effective date will reset to the date the change was

reported. If demoted, the original effective date will be retained.

4.14.2. Applicants who deliberately worsen their situation to gain advantage will be assessed on the basis of their situation immediately prior to this taking place.

Offer of Accommodation

4.15. Applicants will usually receive one reasonable offer of accommodation, based on the information gathered as part of the housing assessment. The offer will be considered reasonable if it:

- matches the household's required property size and type;
- meets verified needs for adaptations and/or accessibility;
- the location provides access to necessary support needs when required;
- the location provides reasonable access to schools and/or employment when required;
- the location offers reasonable access to public transport when required.

Refusal of a reasonable offer without good reason will result in the removal from the Housing Register for 12 months. Applicants cannot reapply during the suspension period unless there has been a material change of circumstances. Where there has been a material change of circumstances a new housing assessment will be needed.

Bedroom Eligibility

4.16. For applicants who are eligible to join the Housing Register the applicant's requirements in relation to property size will normally be determined according to the standard indicated in the household table below. Exceptions may occur (subject to the applicant demonstrating ability to afford rent) which will include, but not exclusively:

- When the housing provider needs to consider the sustainability of an area;
- Where there is limited stock or low demand;
- Where a household member has a disability or health related condition which requires an additional bedroom. This must be supported by information from a relevant medical professional and will be subject to an affordability assessment.
- Where the applicant has shared responsibility for a child/children who is/are not a permanent household member, an additional bedroom will be permitted subject to a financial assessment.

Household	Bedrooms
Single person	**1 or bedsit**
Couple	**1**

Single pregnant woman (and in receipt of the MATB1 certificate)	**2**
Single parent or couple with one child	**2**
Single parent or couple with two children of same sex	**2**
Single parent or couple with two children of opposite sex under 10 years	**2 or 3**
Single parent or couple with two children of opposite sex where at least one child is over 10 years	**3**
Single parent or couple with three children	**3**
Single parent or couple with four children	**3 or 4**
Single parent or couple with five children	**4**
Single parent or couple with more than five children	**4**

4.17. The following should be read in conjunction with the table above:

For the purposes of sharing bedrooms, the following apply:

- Under 10 years old, mixed sexes may share a bedroom. However, where a child is within twelve months of being 10 years old, an additional bedroom may be provided;
- Under 16 years old, same sexes may share a bedroom. However, where a child is within twelve months of being 16 years old, an additional bedroom may be provided;
- Over 16 years old, own bedroom required.

Parlour type properties can be considered as having an additional bedroom to assist where necessary with housing larger families where larger accommodation is not available.

In all cases child refers to dependent child (see glossary of terms).

4.18. Individual assessments will be required for applicants whose household comprises more than two adults or for other households who do not fit within the standards in the table.

Accessible and Sheltered Housing

4.19. Properties particularly suitable for people with a medical need or following an Occupational Therapist Assessment will normally be allocated to people where the adaptations will meet their needs or where the property can be easily adapted to meet their needs, e.g. adapted properties, bungalows and ground floor flats. Applicants in need of adapted or accessible properties will be able to outline their requirements at the point of application. This is to support the allocation of accommodation that appropriately meets their requirements (e.g. adapted for wheelchair use, level access wet room, ground floor, hoists, stairlifts etc.) All specified requirements must be supported by appropriate evidence demonstrating the need.

4.20. Sheltered housing will normally be offered to people over 55 or people over 50 who have a medical need for sheltered housing. Applicants for sheltered

housing who are assessed as being in housing need will be placed in either the Priority, A or B bands.

5.0 Local lettings policies

5.1. Section 167(2E) of the Housing Act 1996 enables the Council to allocate accommodation to people of a particular description, whether or not they fall within the reasonable preference categories (outlined in section 1.13).

Such local flexibility is permitted, provided that:

- Reasonable preference groups do not become marginalised or dominated by other allocations; and
- The scheme continues overall to give preference to those in the greatest housing need in line with statutory duties.

This legal basis underpins the use of Local Lettings Policies (LLPs), which allow for tailored allocation approaches to address specific community housing management objectives.

5.2. Local Lettings Policies can be used to address a number of issues such as:

- Creating more mixed communities;
- Managing a concentration of deprivation;
- Ensuring properties that are particularly suited to being made accessible are prioritised for those with access needs;
- Relocating essential workers such as teachers, nurses and police officers within a reasonable travelling distance from their work;
- Dealing sensitively with lettings in rural areas to sustain communities by giving priority to those with a local connection to the local area;
- Under occupancy as a result of the Welfare Reform Act 2012;
- Supporting people in work, training or volunteering or who are seeking work or to take up volunteering opportunities;
- Sustaining Welsh-speaking communities by giving priority to those in housing need with a local connection to the area;
- Taking account of the needs of mobile workers such as those in the armed forces.

5.3. The Council may introduce Local Lettings Policies for housing management reasons. These may include:

- Supporting regeneration or redevelopment schemes
- Managing lettings for specific property types
- Encouraging community sustainability, integration and cohesion.

Lettings will be monitored to ensure that they comply with the Local Lettings Policy. Please refer to the Council's website for details of current Local Lettings Policies.

5.4. Local Lettings Policies will be monitored as to their effectiveness and reviewed regularly so that they can be revised or revoked where they are no longer appropriate or necessary.

6.0 Change of circumstances

6.1. Applicants should notify the Council in writing of any change in their circumstances, as this may affect their housing eligibility or banding. Changes that must be reported include, but are not limited to:

i. A change of address, for themselves or any other person on their application; or
ii. Any additions to the family or any other person they would wish to join the application (N.B. it is for the Council to decide whether they will allow a person/s to join the application); or
iii. Any member of the family or any other person on the application who has left the accommodation; or
iv. Any change in income or savings

6.2. A change of circumstances may require a further housing assessment.

7.0 Transfer arrangements

7.1. The social landlords who are participating in this Policy may operate internal transfer schemes. Tenants who wish to transfer within their existing landlord's stock should contact their landlord directly for details of transfer eligibility and procedures.

7.2. Tenants who whish to move from one housing association to another social landlord in Bridgend or elsewhere may use the national HomeSwapper scheme. Online information about HomeSwapper can be found at htttps://www.homeswapper.co.uk/, or by contacting Bridgend County Borough Council or the social landlords in Bridgend.

8.0 Complaints

8.1. Any applicant who is unhappy with the service with which they have been provided by the Council may complain. It is best for everyone if complaints are dealt with as quickly as possible. Applicants should contact the officer or individual they usually deal with first who will try to solve the problem quickly.

8.2. If a complaint is not resolved at an informal level the applicant may make a formal complaint. Detail in relation to complaints, including how to complain, is available on the Council's website (https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/council/customer-services/concerns-and-formal-complaints/) or from the Council's Offices.

9.0 Right of review

9.1. Any applicant has the right to request a review of any of the following decisions:

i. That they are not eligible under the Allocation Policy. This includes decisions where an applicant is deemed ineligible due to unacceptable behaviour; or

ii. To remove an application from the Housing Register following unreasonable refusals of offers of accommodation; or

iii. About the facts of an applicant's case which have been, or are likely to be, taken into account in considering whether to make an allocation to them;

iv. The assessment of an application, including the Banding; or

v. The cancellation or withdrawal of an application.

9.2. Any applicant wishing to request a review of a decision must do so by contacting the Council in writing within 21 days of the date of the letter that informed them of that decision.

9.3. Homeless applicants may also have a statutory right of review on certain homelessness decisions, including decisions on the suitability of accommodation offered and any discharge of duty.

9.4. A Review Officer who was not involved in the original decision will deal with the review within 14 days of the request. All decisions following reviews will be notified to the applicant in writing giving the reasons for the decision. The decision letter will be sent out within 21 days of the original request. The review decision cannot be appealed at the County Court and the only available legal challenge to review the decision is by means of Judicial Review.

10. Glossary of Terms

Code of Guidance	The document issued by Welsh Government, and periodically updated which provides direction and further explanation on the way in which Housing Legislation should be implemented
Dependent child	A child who depends on a parent or guardian for financial, emotional or other support and where there is no alternative (one parent or guardian will usually be regarded as providing the principal home)
Existing social housing tenants	Existing tenants of one of the four Partner Housing Associations

Hardship	Difficulty which is beyond mere inconvenience causing the applicant suffering or deprivation which is likely to be endured over a long period
Household	The applicant and any persons who will be moving with the applicant, whether they currently live with the applicant or not
Housing Association	Independent organisations that provide low-cost social housing on a not-for-profit housing basis for those in need of housing
Overcrowding	A housing situation is considered to be overcrowded if it fits one of the following situations: i. Two adults of opposite sex not living together as partners, who have to share a bedroom; ii. Three or more people of any age are sharing a bedroom where one or more is over 10 years of age; iii. Anyone sleeping in a room that is not a bedroom or a room that could reasonably be used as a bedroom; iv. For medical reasons a separate bedroom is necessary;

	v. For reasons of ethnicity, culture or religious belief it is not possible to share a bedroom.
Sheltered housing	Rented housing for older and/or disabled or other vulnerable people
Social housing	Social housing is housing that is let at low rents and on a secure basis to people in housing need. It is generally provided by Councils and not-for-profit organisations such as Housing Associations
Unacceptable behaviour	When the Council refer to “behaviour” it means anti-social behaviour and other prohibited conduct which comes within section 55 of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 and the Council is satisfied that an outright possession order would have been made under that section (see Appendix 1).

Appendix One – Section 55 of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

Section 55 Anti-social behaviour and other prohibited conduct

1. The contract-holder under an occupation contract must not engage or threaten to engage in conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person with a right
    a. to live in the dwelling subject to the occupation contract, or
    b. to live in a dwelling or other accommodation in the locality of the dwelling subject to the occupation contract.
2. . The contract-holder must not engage or threaten to engage in conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person engaged in lawful activity—
    a. in the dwelling subject to the occupation contract, or
    b. in the locality of that dwelling.
3. The contract-holder must not engage or threaten to engage in conduct—
    a. capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to—
        i. the landlord under the occupation contract, or
        ii. a person (whether or not employed by the landlord) acting in connection with the exercise of the landlord's housing management functions, and
    b. that is directly or indirectly related to or affects the landlord's housing management functions.
4. The contract-holder may not use or threaten to use the dwelling subject to the occupation contract, including any common parts and any other part of a building comprising the dwelling, for criminal purposes.
5. The contract-holder must not, by any act or omission—
    a. allow, incite, or encourage any person who is living in or visiting the dwelling to act as mentioned in subsections (1) to (3), or
    b. allow, incite, or encourage any person to act as mentioned in subsection (4).

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**22 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**PANEL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (PPA)**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY**
Responsible Officer:	**ALEX RAWLIN POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**The Corporate Plan and Performance Framework (on which PPA is based) form part of the Policy Framework.**
Executive Summary:	**The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the requirement on the Council to commission and organise a panel performance assessment (PPA) before the next local government elections, and the implications of this requirement. The proposal is for onsite PPA work the week of 15 September 2025. The report seeks decisions on the:-** • **Governance, decision making and roles of Cabinet and Governance and Audit Committee (GAC);** • **Membership of the peer panel; and** • **The issues and priorities for PPA as set out in the draft Scoping Document**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the requirement on the Council to commission and organise a Panel Performance Assessment (PPA) before the next local government elections, and the implications of this requirement. It seeks decisions on governance and the Scoping Document.

2. Background

2.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act ('The Act') 2021 set out a new local government improvement regime. One of the requirements of the Act is for the Council to arrange for a panel to undertake and respond to a corporate, organisational level assessment, of the extent to which the Council is meeting its performance requirements. This is called a Panel Performance Assessment (PPA). This must be done at least once during the period between two consecutive ordinary elections (May 2022 and anticipated May 2027) of councillors to the County Borough Council.

2.2 Councils can commission the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to coordinate and facilitate the PPA on their behalf, and the first set of PPAs will be paid for in full by the WLGA. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has requested a PPA from WLGA in September 2025. This was to avoid undertaking the PPA with a brand new Corporate Plan and Self-Assessment Process (if PPA took place in Summer 2024) but also avoiding being too close to the likely Local Election date.

2.3 A number of PPAs in Wales have now been completed, and officers have used their lessons learned to inform the development of the process and scoping document for the Council.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The PPA onsite work will take place in the week commencing 15 September 2025, with meetings commencing on Tuesday 16 September and concluding early afternoon on Friday 19 September 2025.

3.2 There are three stages for the PPA process, which are

- **Stage 1: Preparation** - This stage requires development of a scoping document, considering any challenges that have been highlighted in our Self-Assessment and / or in recent audit, inspection, or regulator reports. It should also be clear about the appointment of the PPA panel that would be needed (as determined by needs identified in the scoping document). This phase is led by the Council.
- **Stage 2: Assessment** – This stage starts with document reviews and then a hybrid of remote and onsite working, comprising of 1:1 interviews and focus groups. Following the format of historic corporate assessments by external regulators, this may typically take place over 4 days. Informal feedback would be provided at the end before a report is drafted. This phase is led by the panel.
- **Stage 3: Follow-up** - This stage requires a draft report to be checked for factual inaccuracies, a response from the Council to the report and for it to be made available to the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC). GAC may make recommendations for changes, but if those changes are not made by Cabinet, the response must state the reasons why. The final response must be shared with the panel. The report and Council's response must be published and shared with Audit Wales, ESTYN, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), and Welsh Ministers.

3.3 The scope of what the panel are expected to explore covers the same three performance requirements that are used in the Council's Corporate Self-Assessment:

Performance requirement	Areas of focus
Performance requirement 1: the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively, focuses on self-awareness, understanding of context the Council is	• Leadership • Corporate and Service Planning • Risk and assurance. • Performance management.

working in, identifying issues and making improvements.	
Performance Requirement 2: The extent to which the Council is using its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively, focuses on whether resources are aligned to assist the Council in delivering its objectives / statutory functions and provide value for money.	• Digital and data • Financial planning • Workforce • Procurement • Risk management • Assets
Performance Requirement 3: The extent to which the Council has effective governance in place: focuses on whether there are clear and robust governance arrangements, a transparent culture that welcomes scrutiny / challenge.	• Governance • Leadership • Organisational culture • Financial governance • Capacity to improve

3.4 As well as the scoping document the Council is required to prepare (setting out its own priorities for scrutiny and challenge based on the most recent self-assessment), the evidence for PPA which will be provided in the form of a document request.

3.5 The panel will consist of the following (as a minimum) –

- An independent chair (i.e. not currently serving in an official or political capacity within local government)
- A peer from the wider public, private, or voluntary sectors
- A serving local government senior officer, likely to be equivalent to chief executive or director, from outside the Council to be assessed
- A senior elected member, from outside the Council to be assessed

3.6 WLGA will be on site alongside the peers in September. They will ensure the assessment is consistent with those in other authorities in Wales. WLGA have put forward the following peers for the panel –

- Sally Loudon (Chair)
- Gareth Newall (Senior Leadership Team Peer)
- Councillor Andrew Stevens (Member Peer)
- Anne Louise Clark (Wider Peer)

3.7 When onsite, the peers would wish to meet a selection of individual and groups. For some it may be more efficient to hold remote sessions / phone calls (e.g. interviews with regulators and partners). The panel may use a combination of focus groups and web-based surveys / questionnaires to fulfil the consultation requirements. The Council's self-assessment consultation process will be considered by the panel when determining their approach.

3.8 The Council requested and received two scoping documents, from Denbighshire and Ceredigion Councils. The Ceredigion Council example has a similar format to BCBC's Corporate Plan and Self-Assessment, so it is

proposed to use a similar format. A similar template has been populated with existing information from the Corporate Plan 2023-28 and Self-Assessment 2023/24. This includes a number of potential priority areas for the panel to consider, to help the Council improve. These are taken from the Self-Assessment 2023/24 and the developing Self-Assessment for 2024/25. This draft scoping document is included at **Appendix 1**.

3.9 Governance arrangements for the PPA are set out in The Act. Decisions can be made by Cabinet or Council on –

- The appointment of performance assessment panel,
- The Council's response to the report of the panel performance assessment,
- The Council's response to the recommendations of the panel.

It is proposed that Cabinet make these decisions.

3.10 WLGA advise that there are likely to be large numbers of smaller and more operational decisions to be made around the PPA before the onsite work in September, often with short deadlines. It is proposed that Cabinet delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, to make these decisions.

3.11 There are also specific requirements on working with the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC), including –

- Making the Panel's report available to GAC
- Making a draft of the Council's response available to GAC
- Testing whether GAC require any changes to the Council's response
- Making those changes

3.12 The main points for decision making are –

What	When	Who
Agree scoping document and priorities for panel scrutiny and support	July 25	Cabinet
Agree panel membership and chair	July 25	Cabinet
Agree response to the Panel Report (including actions to address the panel recommendations)	October / November 25	Cabinet / Corporate Management Board, GAC and then Cabinet

If Cabinet support the governance proposals, the relevant decision points will be added to the Cabinet and GAC forward work programmes.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the

development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Wellbeing of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Wellbeing Objectives

5.1 This report considers the work of the Panel Performance Assessment which will assess the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that form part of the Council's Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2025/26:-

1. A prosperous place with thriving communities
2. Creating modern, seamless public services
3. Enabling people to meet their potential
4. Supporting our most vulnerable

5.2 The 5 ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act have also been included in the Council's wellbeing objectives. The ways of driving and measuring them is also contained in the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no specific implications of this report on climate change and nature. However, the PPA will assess the Council's performance on areas including climate change and nature.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no specific implications of this report on safeguarding or corporate parenting. However, the PPA will assess the Council's performance on areas including safeguarding and corporate parenting.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- Notes the date of the onsite work for the PPA in paragraph 3.1.
- Considers and agrees governance proposals for PPA in paragraphs 3.9 - 3.12.
- Considers and agrees the membership of the panel in paragraph 3.6.
- Reviews and agrees the draft scoping document, with its proposed areas for focus in **Appendix 1**.

Background documents

None

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Draft BCBC scoping document

Introduction

We are now two years into the implementation of our Corporate Plan and there is a consensus that the time is right to undertake our first Panel Performance Assessment. This assessment will play a key role in shaping our delivery and prioritisation with the benefit of external peer experience. It is timely, with a new Chief Executive starting in July to help us be clear about areas of success, improvement and to be challenged to think differently to meet today and tomorrow's challenges.

We are an ambitious Council with a track record of delivering high-quality and innovative services but face significant challenges in parts of our services.

Local Government has changed radically since the pandemic and this has impacted the way we work. The cost-of-living crisis things difficult for residents and businesses, and makes it harder for the Council to manage too. Some of our key challenges are –

- The ongoing cost-of-living crisis causing increased energy costs, changes to the cost and availability of goods and services, and impacts on residents that add demand to our services. Long term council funding is not increasing at the same rate, so our funding struggles to keep up with demand in key areas.
- Political changes at home and abroad means a changing financial situation and changing priorities / expectations of the council, for example increases to employer National Insurance Contributions likely to add significant costs for councils and our partners.
- New and far-reaching legislation from UK and Welsh Governments on issues including social partnerships, immigration, elimination of profit from social care, employment rights and procurement that affect large parts of our organisation.
- Exceptional demands across some of our key service areas including support for children with Additional Learning Needs, older people's care, complex children's placements and homelessness. Changing patterns of need in other service areas, for example behaviour in schools and attendance. Some services have worked hard to meet expectations but have limited capacity due to capacity / resilience following years of budget cuts.

Our self-assessments over the last 3 years have highlighted areas for improvement, and we would welcome the peers' support on the following priority areas that encompass the whole council and involve all directorates –

1. Transformation – Development of a transformation strategy that meets political and key stakeholder aspirations that is underpinned by effective arrangements for delivery, performance management and a culture of constructive challenge. A clear need to focus on mechanisms and capacity for transformation that will improve citizens experience and create an organisation that is sustainable in the medium and long term.

2. Addressing workforce challenges – Building on strengthened workforce planning, address challenges in recruitment in key areas, and improve succession planning, to help us create a long-term workforce strategy.

3. Improving engagement – Building on improvements to strategic communication, improve our engagement and relationships internally with councillors and externally with local communities and town and community councils to help us become more citizen focused.

We extend a warm welcome to the Panel and look forward to working with them. This document provides an overview of the Council and the County Borough, which we hope will serve as a useful starting point for the Panel Performance Assessment.

Where and Who We Are

Bridgend County Borough covers around 110 square miles, stretching from the Ogmore, Garw, and Llynfi valleys in the north to the Bristol Channel coastline in the south.

The main commercial centres are Bridgend, Maesteg, and the seaside resort of Porthcawl.

The county borough is divided by the M4 and boasts main-line rail links going east to London and west to Swansea.

Population and Community Demographics

Bridgend had a population of 145,760 at the 2021 census, a 4.5% increase from 2011. The population is projected to grow by 7.5% in the next 20 years. In our population –

- 50.6% are female and 49.4% are male.
- 96.78% identify as white. 1.48% of people identify as Asian. 1.16% identify as mixed race. 0.29% identify as black. 0.29% identify as other ethnic group
- 22.64% have disabilities that limit their day-to-day activities a little or a lot.

Like the rest of Wales, the county borough has an aging population with the fastest growing age category being over 65 which increased by 21.5% between 2011 and 2021. During the same time, under 15s only increased by 2.6%. This can present challenges to our council services including health, social care and housing.

Health and Deprivation

In 2021, 46.3% of residents described their health as “very good,” up from 45.1% in 2011. However, there are significant health disparities.

Bridgend has 7 areas identified as having ‘Deep Rooted Deprivation’. These are areas that have remained within the top 50 most deprived areas in Wales for the last five publications of Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks.

In Bridgend 70% of people aged 16+ are in “good or very good” general health, which is the national average. Physical activity uptake and healthy eating rates are below the national average and Bridgend is home to some of the most materially deprived places in Wales. Bridgend has an obesity rate above the national average. Our healthy weight in under 25s is also slightly below the Wales average. 18% of adults in Bridgend smoke, slightly above the national average (17%). Mental wellbeing is slightly better than the Wales average.

Employment and Skills

Bridgend has around 3,770 enterprises, with a significant number of micro-enterprises (up to nine employees). Key employers include Bridgend County Borough Council, which employs around 6,000 people, and major private sector employers in manufacturing and medical device engineering.

The employment rate (ages 16 to 64) is 67.1% and employment in Bridgend has decreased compared with the previous year. Bridgend's employment rate was lower than Wales as a whole in the year ending December 2023.

Skills and Unemployment Welfare

As of May 2024, Bridgend now has an unemployment rate of 3.5%, though people looking for work has risen since a year earlier. The most recent unemployment rate for Bridgend was lower than Wales as a whole. Economic inactivity has increased since the previous year; these are people who are neither employed nor seeking work. The Claimant Count measures the number of people who are claiming unemployment-related benefits between the ages of 16-64 is 2.8%. Claimant Count was lower in March 2024 compared with a year earlier.

Infrastructure and Transport Links

The county benefits from excellent transport infrastructure, including the M4 motorway, which provides quick access to Cardiff and Swansea. There are also high-speed rail services and proximity to Cardiff Airport. Active travel routes are being developed to improve walking and cycling infrastructure. The council has recently adopted a new Local Development Plan (LDP), which will shape development up to 2033.

Housing and Affordability

The average house price in Bridgend is approximately £187,812. 71% of households in Bridgend County either own their home outright or via a mortgage. A further 15% rented privately, while 14% rented socially. Porthcawl has the highest levels of home ownership and the Pyle/Kenfig Hill area the lowest. The Ogmore Valley had the highest proportion of private tenants (21%). The council manages a common housing register to allocate social housing and offers various support services to prevent homelessness. Our Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26 sets out six new priorities and associated objectives.

The proportion of properties liable for council tax that are second homes (0.1%) is well below the all-Wales average (1.8%).

Local Climate Challenges

Bridgend has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The Council has a comprehensive strategy to address climate change, including decarbonising our operations and promoting sustainable practices. Achievements to date include LED street lighting, retrofit programme for energy efficiency, the expansion of local nature reserves, tree planting and a sustainable procurement strategy.

Our Council

Political Leadership

At the last local elections in May 2022, there were 51 seats contested in the election, 3 fewer than in 2017. The next Bridgend County Borough Council elections are likely to take place in May 2027.

The current administration is a Labour majority with 26 councillors, 23 independents (13 Bridgend County Independents, 8 Democratic alliance and 2 Independent), 1 Conservative and 1 Reform.

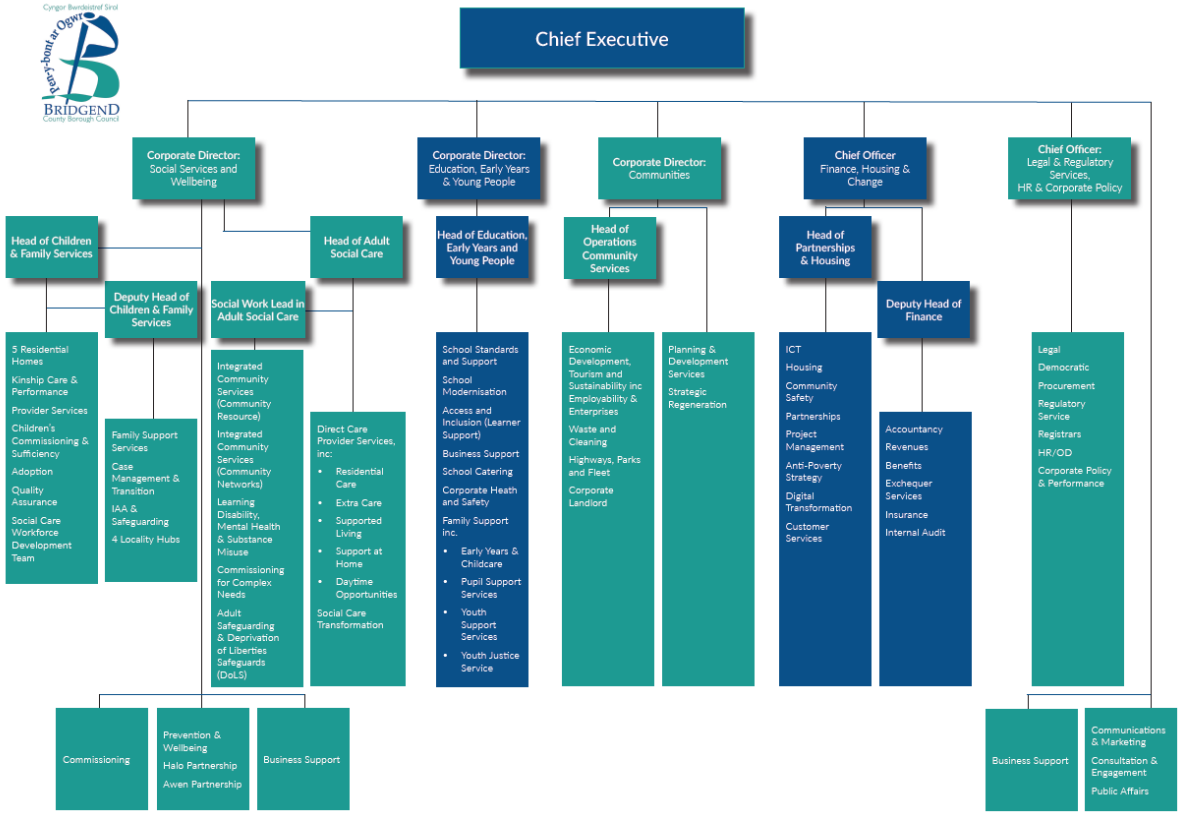
The Leader of the Council is Councillor John Spanswick and Councillor Jane Gebbie is the Deputy Leader.

The Cabinet	
Member	**Portfolio**
Councillor John Spanswick	**Leader** Became an elected member 1999. Cabinet member since 2022, and Leader since 2024.
Councillor Jane Gebbie	**Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing** Became an elected member in 2017 and cabinet member in 2021 Current Portfolio - Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Fostering & Adoption, AWEN, Edge of Care, Early Help & Family Support, Community Co-ordinators, Third Sector, Learning Disabilities, Libraries, HALO, Improvement & Innovation Board, Stakeholder Reference Group, Integrated Leadership Board
Councillor Hywel Williams	**Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance** Became an elected member in 2004 and cabinet member in 2016 Current Portfolio - Medium Term Financial Strategy, Revenues & Benefits, Capital Programme, Customer Services, Performance Management, Democratic Services, Legal Services, Shared Regulatory Services, Registrars, Corporate Landlord, Property & Facilities Management
Councillor Martyn Jones	**Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services** Became an elected member in 2012 by-election, and cabinet member in 2024 Current Portfolio - Schools, Further Education, Central Education Functions, Youth Services, Youth Justice Board, School Improvement Services, Flying Start, Food Sustainability, Catering Services, Early Years

Councillor Paul Davies 	**Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment** Became an elected member in 2017 and cabinet member in 2024 Current Portfolio - Waste Services, Street Cleansing, Highway Services, Parks & Green Spaces, Countryside & Biodiversity, Decarbonisation, Bereavement Services, CAT Programme, Parking Services, Flood Defence & Drainage, Street Lighting, Net Zero, Energy Efficiency, Fleet Services
Councillor Eugene Caparros Councillor Melanie Evans 	**Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)** Became elected members in 2022 and cabinet members in 2024 Current Portfolio - Consultation & Engagement, Communications & Media, Town & Community Councils, Base Budgeting, Human Resources, Trade Unions, Task & Finish Projects, Apprenticeships, Procurement & Circular Economy, Health & Safety, I.C.T., Workforce Planning.
Councillor Neelo Farr 	**Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing** Became an elected member in 2015 and re-elected in 2022, and cabinet member in 2022 Current Portfolio - Regeneration, Economic Development, Housing & Homelessness, Employability, Planning & Transportation, Active Travel, Rural Development, Community Safety, VAWDASV, Equalities

Senior Management

The council's senior management comprises the Chief Executive, who started in post in July 2025. He is supported by three Corporate Directors with responsibility for a group of services each. There are two Chief Officers responsible for the remaining directorates, and a Head of Internal Audit.



Corporate Management Board (CMB)					
Jake Morgan – Chief Executive	Claire Marchant - Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing	Lindsay Harvey - Corporate Director, Education, Early Years and Young People	Janine Nightingale – Corporate Director, Communities	Carys Lord - Chief Officer, Finance, Housing and Change	Kelly Watson - Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Our Strengths and Recent Successes

- **Strong financial management** - In our last financial sustainability review by Audit Wales which covered the year 2023/24 they stated "*Overall, we found that the Council understands its financial position with good arrangements to support its financial sustainability which it flexes and adapts".*
- **Transformation of the way we support children and families in Bridgend** After an extremely challenging period Children's Services has been transformed. There have been significant reductions in the number agency social workers, the number of children subject to child protection registration and the number of care experienced children. Our international recruitment programme won a Social Care Wales Accolade for developing and inspiring the workforce. These significant improvements have been recognised by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and the service is now performing well after a period of monitoring and intervention by the CIW.
- **High quality integrated health and social care community services which support adults with disabilities and health challenges to live independently and well as long as possible** - We have transformed the way we supported people to retain or regain their independence following a period of ill health. More people have benefited from our care and support at home assessment services, which means they are living without a need for long term care and support. Less Bridgend residents are delayed in leaving hospital. Our council care and support and residential services have consistently been assessed as providing high-quality, person-centred services by Care Inspectorate Wales.
- **High quality and innovative prevention and wellbeing services** - Our health living partnership with Halo leisure continues to deliver excellent outcomes for Bridgend citizens. The partnership received an excellent quality grading which is the highest awarded by Quest – the UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure in 2024.
- **Excellent provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) -** Specialist provision for pupils with ALN in Bridgend is consistently rated as excellent by Estyn. In 2023, Heronsbridge School became the first special school in Wales to receive no recommendations following an Estyn inspection, and in 2025 The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit was recognised by Estyn as having an *"exceptional level of care, support, and guidance for all learners".*
- **Excellent educational outcomes** - 40% of Bridgend schools have received either an interim or core Estyn inspection visit since September 2021. Currently, only one Bridgend school is in any form of Estyn statutory category. Pupils in Bridgend schools perform better than the all-Wales average in literacy, numeracy and science at GCSE level, despite having the 5th highest number of learners eligible for free school meals in Wales.
- **Excellent outcomes for vulnerable young people** - In 2023, following a joint inspection review of child protection arrangements in Bridgend, the work of the local authority's Education Engagement Team, which supports vulnerable children and young people in schools, was judged by regulators as 'exemplary'. For 16 to 18-year-olds in Bridgend who are NEET (not in education, employment or training), the average over the last year is 1.4%

compared to an all-Wales average of 2.3%, placing Bridgend as the second-best performing local authority in Wales.

- **Successful regeneration projects –** We have recently completed the £8.5m refurbishment of Maesteg Town Hall in the Llynfi Valley, by restoring, extending and protecting this Grade II Listed building for the community for future generations. Work is ongoing to redevelop Porthcawl Grand Pavilion using Levelling Up Funding, to increase the use of the new facilities and extend social and leisure facilities, in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust.
- **Leading in Wales on recycling –** We currently have the highest recycling rate of all Local Authorities in Wales at 73% and also the lowest cost waste services in Wales as validated by the WLGA.

Our Key Challenges

- Demographic growth in the number of older people who will need services
- The cost of children's placements and demand in Children's Services
- A digital strategy is being developed with the potential to support service transformation
- Recruitment and retention challenges in the Communities Directorate
- Managing behaviour in schools and demand for services for children with Additional Learning Needs
- There is limited corporate change management capacity to deliver transformation projects
- Housing - Demand for homelessness continues to rise
- There is growing urgency to deliver a master plan and vision for Bridgend Town Centre
- Building capacity to successfully deliver the political decision to insource waste and recycling.

Our Vision for the Area and Wellbeing Objectives (WBOs)

Our Corporate Plan that was published in 2023, and subsequent Delivery Plan are strengthening economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing for the communities of the County Borough. Through research and public engagement, we identified the needs of our communities, our own shortcomings and the availability of resources. The wellbeing objectives we developed are aimed at maximising our contribution to our citizens as well as the national wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles. Our key priorities are broken down into 4 (recently streamlined and updated) Wellbeing Objectives:

1. A prosperous place with thriving communities
2. Creating modern, seamless public services
3. Enabling people to meet their potential
4. Supporting our most vulnerable

We review our progress each year with a Self-Assessment. This is in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Self-Assessment 2023-24

Our most recent self-assessment was published in October 2024 against our old set of 7 wellbeing objectives.

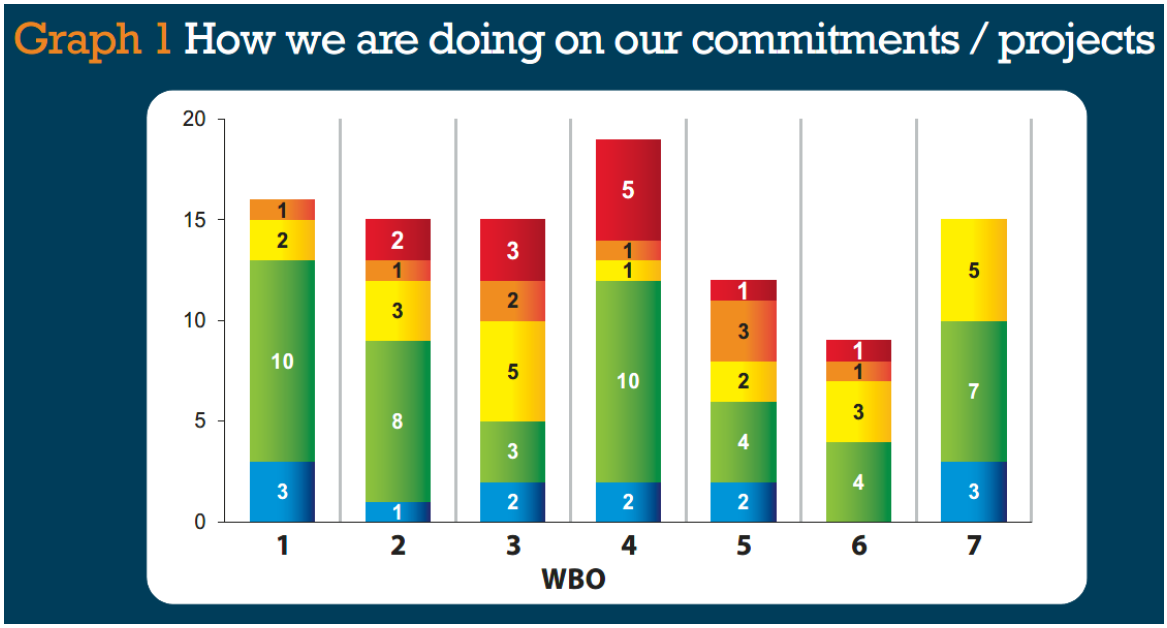
The Council's self-assessment judgements for 2023/24 were –

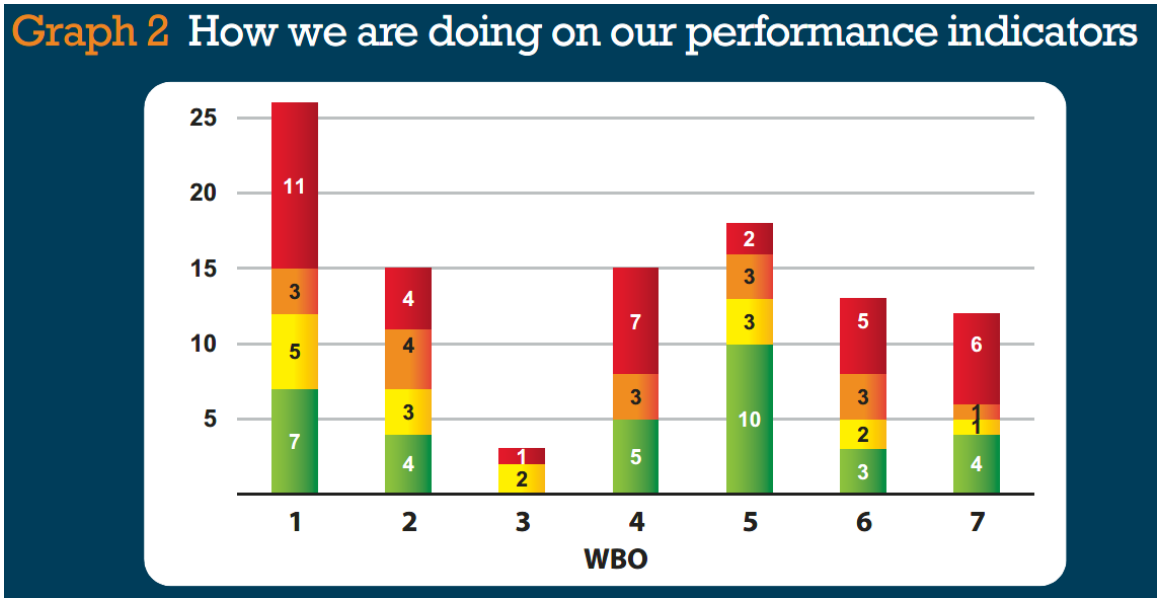
1	A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable	**Good**
2	A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns	**Good**
3	A County Borough with thriving valleys communities	**Adequate**
4	A County Borough where we help people meet their potential	**Good**
5	A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency	**Good**
6	A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community	**Adequate**
7	A county borough where we support people to be healthy and happy	**Good**

These seven wellbeing objectives were supported by 44 aims made up of:

- 101 commitments (projects) the council will do to help us achieve our aims.
- 99 performance indicators to measure our day-to-day activities

Each is given a rating to show whether they are completed, on target or if we are struggling to achieve them. The graphs below summarise these.





The Use of Resources judgement remained at 'Adequate'. The more detailed judgements against each aspect of use of resources were –

Financial management	**Adequate**
Performance management	**Adequate**
Risk management	**Good**
Corporate Planning	**Good**
People management	**Adequate**
Commissioning and procurement	**Adequate**
Asset management	**Adequate**

The Governance judgement remained at 'Good'.

The self-assessment sets out performance against our wellbeing objectives in some detail, as well as how well we are using our resources, and a summary of our governance, decision making and how we listen to the opinions of others. We publish a separate, short performance document that details our progress against each Performance Indicator (PI) and commitment.

Working in Partnership

Public Service Board (PSB)

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB brings together public bodies to improve the area's social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being. This board was formed by merging the previous PSBs of Cwm Taf covering Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf that included Bridgend. This regional integration represents a shift from a local to a regional focus, allowing for more comprehensive and coordinated service delivery across the three areas. The PSB engages with local communities to gather input and ensure that the well-being plan reflects the needs and aspirations of residents.

The new Public Service Board Well-Being Plan outlines they key objectives for the area;

Objective One - Healthy local neighbourhoods, where our communities are inclusive and feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued.

Objective Two - Sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods, where we understand and respond to the risk of climate change to our communities. To do this we must value, manage and enjoy our green and blue spaces responsibly.

At the end of each year, an annual report is published to explain how we are doing against the plan, here is the latest Cwm Taf Annual Report.

Our Corporate Plan was designed to reflect the priorities of the PSB and demonstrates BCBC's commitment to its objectives.

Managing Risk

The Council's Risk Register displays the extent of our challenges and how we will manage them. This information summarises the highest or 'red' risks in our Corporate Risk Register that was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee in July 2025.

Risk Number	Identified Risk	Residual Risk Score	Direction of travel
COR - 2019 – 01	The council is unable to deliver a balanced budget and sustain services into the medium term	25	↔
COR - 2019 – 02	The council is unable to deliver transformation and major service change, including projects and agreed financial savings	20	↔
CEX – 2019 – 01	The council is unable to identify and deliver infrastructure improvements required in the medium to longer term due to the cessation of external grants, the increased cost of borrowing and the increased costs of construction and building works	25	↔
SS – 2019 – 01	The council fails to meet statutory responsibilities to respond to situations where individuals are at risk of neglect or abuse. This would include children, adults in need of social care, homeless individuals	20	↔
COR-2019-03	The council is unable to plan for and recover from major threats to service continuity such as civil emergencies, school failure, cyber-attack and discontinuation of funding streams and major contracts	16	↔
COR-2019 – 04	The council is unable to attract, develop or retain a workforce with the necessary skills to meet the demands placed upon the authority and its services	20	↔
COR-2019-05	Important council services are compromised due to the failure of a key supplier	16	↔
COM - 2020 – 01	Invigorating the economy and economic recovery following the cost of living crisis, and local issues such as the closure of businesses in the area.	20	↔

SS- 2023- 01	Significant service pressures in the health and social care sectors could impact on the ability of services to support vulnerable individuals	25	↔
EDFS - 2024 – 01	There is an increase in the financial fragility of schools in the Borough	25	↔
COR -2024-01	There is a threat to business continuity if the Council is unable to procure and implement major ICT systems which support critical services such as a replacement system for Care Director (WCCIS) and the Capita One system for education.	25	↑

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